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Programme questions: evaluation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-sixth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: termination phase

Note by the Secretary-General

In conformity with paragraph 5 (e) (i) of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the attached report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-sixth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: termination phase", dated 8 April 1999. The report has been reviewed by the relevant departments and offices. The Secretary-General takes note of the findings of the report.

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Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-sixth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: termination phase

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its twenty-second session to review the implementation of its recommendations three years after taking decisions on an in-depth evaluation.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made a concerted effort to follow through on the recommendations of the Committee. Significant progress is reported in connection with learning lessons of experience, the collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information on the information aspects of peacekeeping missions, and the liquidation of missions. Little progress has been made in the establishment of an indexed archive of standard operating procedures developed in completed missions.

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I. Introduction

1. A progress report on the start-up phase of peacekeeping operations (E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr.1) was submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) in 1994. The final report on the start-up phase of peacekeeping operations (E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1) was reviewed by the Committee in 1995. Reviews of progress in implementing prior recommendations on the start-up phase were included in that report and, a year later, in the evaluation report on the termination phase (E/AC.51/1996/3 and Corr.1, recommendations 1–5, paras. 5–12). The triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the start-up phase (E/AC.51/1998/4) concluded with seven follow-up recommendations, all of which were endorsed by CPC (A/53/16,[1] part I, para. 252) on the understanding that the Lessons Learned Unit did not have the mandate to modify existing policies and procedures that require intergovernmental concurrence. Recommendation 7 proposed that:

> A review of the implementation of the above [six] recommendations should be included in the triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the termination phase of peacekeeping operations, to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-ninth session, in 1999.

Section II below deals with the implementation of these six recommendations on the start-up phase.

2. At its thirty-sixth session, CPC considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the termination phase of peacekeeping operations (E/AC.51/1996/3). The Committee's decisions on recommendations 7–16, on the termination phase, (see A/51/16,[2] part I,[1] paras. 89–94) were as follows:

> The Committee expressed appreciation for the report and agreed with the emphasis in the report on learning from experience.
>
> The Committee endorsed recommendations 12, 14 (a) and (b) and 15 (b).
>
> There was no agreement in the Committee on recommendations 7, 9, 11 and 16. The Committee therefore recommended that they be examined further by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. ...
>
> The Committee endorsed recommendations 14 (c) and 15 (a) with ... modifications. ...
>
> The Committee took note of recommendations 8, 10 and 13, on the understanding that any actions on those recommendations should be based on decisions of the relevant intergovernmental bodies.
>
> The Committee requested that the report, together with the conclusions and the recommendations of the Committee on it, be transmitted to the Informal Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on An Agenda for Peace, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and other intergovernmental bodies addressing the questions raised in the report, for consideration and appropriate action.

3. Since the emphasis of the Committee in its conclusions and recommendations was on learning from experience, the present report examines the implementation of recommendations endorsed by the Committee mainly from this perspective. Those recommendations endorsed by the Committee with modifications are reproduced below as modified; for those endorsed with understandings, these understandings are cited in the appropriate places. Recommendations not endorsed by the Committee are indicated by their short titles only.

4. The report on the in-depth evaluation of the termination phase of peacekeeping operations was part of the documentation of the Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 1996 session, and was introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

5. The present triennial review was conducted by the Central Evaluation Unit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to determine the extent to which the Committee's recommendations had been implemented, and is based on an examination of the relevant documentation and consultations by the Central Evaluation Unit for clarification and verification with staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department Management and the Department of Public Information.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16.*

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 16.*

II. Findings

A. Start-up phase

1. Learning from experience

Recommendation 1. Department of Peacekeeping Operations Resource Centre.

An archive should be created in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Resource Centre containing all mission-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) and related materials. The archive should be organized by major substantive and support tasks, including monitoring ceasefires and buffer zones, protecting humanitarian convoys, disarming and demobilizing ex-combatants, reforming military establishments, defining and establishing police forces, organizing or monitoring elections, monitoring human rights, promoting electoral and judicial reform, promoting aspects of civil administration and coordinating economic rehabilitation. These holdings should be indexed, and made available to missions on a Department of Peacekeeping Operations Intranet site by 30 September 1998. The regular updating of this archive, and the encouragement of its use by field missions, should be considered a priority of the Department since it is the core of its institutional memory of practical experience in peacekeeping. Further development of the holdings and capacities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Resource Centre should be primarily determined by the needs of field missions and other official users as indicated by their requests for information.

6. In a memorandum to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) referring to this recommendation dated 12 February 1999, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that the 30 September 1999 deadline could not be met because of a shortage of personnel. All efforts are being made to implement the recommendation. A staff member seconded from the Dag Hammarskjöld Library is assisting in the establishment and indexing of the archive. The Field Administration and Logistics Division maintains a library of mission SOPs (currently from nine missions) in hard copy format for internal reference purposes.

Recommendation 2. Designation of responsibility centres.

The Secretary-General should, by 30 September 1998, designate responsibility centres, with the functions listed in annex II of the progress report (E/AC.51/1994/3), for the development of a ready capacity to act for all major substantive and support tasks in peacekeeping operations. Such designations do not imply that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has responsibility for any functions beyond those in its mandate. Revised bulletins of the Secretary-General and Secretariat for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and all other affected departments and offices should reflect the functions implied by these designations.

7. Responsibility centres have been designated for all major functions examined in the evaluation reports on the start-up phase except human rights — information, electoral assistance, repatriation, civilian police, military, planning, financing, staffing, logistics, procurement and training. The relevant bulletins of the Secretary-General and Secretariat reflect in broad terms the required functions. A review of the relationship between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management in the provision of administrative support to peacekeeping missions is presented in the Secretary-General's report on the support account (see A/53/854/Add.1, paras. 23–33).

8. Recommendation 5 of the progress report on the start-up phase proposed that the then Centre for Human Rights should be designated the responsibility centre for the human rights component of peacekeeping missions (see E/AC.51/1994/3 and Corr. 1). At its thirty-eighth session, after examining the Triennial review of the start-up phase (E/AC.51/1998/4), the CPC reiterated its conclusion arrived at at its thirty-fifth session that the recommendation needed to be examined further by the relevant intergovernmental bodies (A/53/16, part I, para. 253).

Recommendation 3. Translating the lessons of experience into practice.

For each of the major substantive tasks of peacekeeping missions, the Lessons Learned Unit, together with the responsibility centre associated with the component or task, should: (a) review the relevant mission SOPs and related material, Department of Peacekeeping Operations

handbooks, manuals and training materials, end-of-mission assessments and lessons learned documents, and derive from them policies and procedures for these tasks, or modify existing policies and procedures; (b) present a report on these activities to the 1999 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

9. Lessons learned reports on the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the United Nations Angola Verification Missions (UNAVEM I, II, and III), prepared by the Lessons Learned Unit, were reviewed to determine how the lessons learned from these operations were implemented in the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). The review concluded that most of the lessons were applied in UNTAES. A comprehensive report on UNTAES has been published by the Lessons Learned Unit in 1998. A report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in peacekeeping and peace support operations has been circulated for comments. The report includes principles and mechanisms to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and arrangements involved in peacekeeping and peace support, based on experiences gathered from six peacekeeping missions. Another report, dealing with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in a peacekeeping environment, is scheduled for publication in 1999.

10. During the 1999 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Chief of the Lessons Learned Unit presented to the Working Group of the Special Committee an oral report supplemented by an informal written report on translating the lessons of experience into practice. The written report was reviewed by OIOS.

2. Other issues

Recommendation 4. Information component.

A. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Communication and Public Information should engage in an active process of search for appropriate candidates to place on the roster of potential public information personnel for mission assignment; the roster should be systematically updated.

B. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Communication and Public Information should continue to develop standards for the public information component of peacekeeping operations. The standards already agreed on should be put into practice in the execution of information strategies of current and future missions.

C. The Office of Communication and Public Information should be involved from the outset in planning the information component of new or expanded missions; an information expert should participate in all technical surveys or reconnaissance missions.

D. Start-up kits for the information component should be developed.

E. All Department of Peacekeeping Operations field operations should be linked to each other and to Headquarters, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Resource Centre, through a Department of Peacekeeping Operations Intranet site, by 30 September 1998.

11. The Department of Public Information and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations consult regularly on anticipated requirements and vacancies to be filled in information components in the field, and on potential candidates for appointment or for inclusion in the roster. The roster currently has 180 names, although the ad hoc and unpredictable nature of field requirements in the information field have made it impractical to initiate general systematic searches. More than many disciplines, field work in public information involves special requirements regarding linguistic ability, technical skills (in such fields as broadcasting) and familiarity with the political, cultural and media environment of mission areas.

12. The standard provisional guidelines for public information components in United Nations peacekeeping and other field missions, circulated to the field in 1997, were published as part of the series of handbooks issued by the Training Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The guidelines have been disseminated to peacekeeping missions. The Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations have encouraged special representatives of the Secretary-General, force commanders and chiefs of mission to review the guidelines with a view to applying them in their own mission areas, as appropriate. The Department of Public Information, has also contributed to lessons learned exercises on UNTAES and on cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in peacekeeping and peace support operations.

13. Despite some progress, survey missions to examine public information requirements in peacekeeping operations and inclusion of a public information strategy in the overall concept of operations for new and evolving missions have not yet become universal practices.

14. During 1998, a Department of Public Information survey of television editing equipment stored at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (UNLB) was conducted in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with a view to determining the availability of television production equipment for start-up kits and a plan for its maintenance/disposal. The Department of Public Information has previously cooperated with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in establishing lists of equipment and materials needed by public information components in the field during the start-up phase. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has referred to this information in deciding on the retention and inclusion of items in start-up kits being assembled at UNLB.

15. Not all peacekeeping missions are equipped with static Internet addresses (as opposed to dial-up services) necessary for them to access the United Nations Internet.

Recommendation 5. Military component.

The guideline standard operating procedures (SOPs) for peacekeeping operations should be updated by the end of 1998.

16. The guideline standard operating procedures had not been updated as of the end of March 1999. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations intends to complete this task by the end of 1999.

Recommendation 6. Analytical budgeting system for peacekeeping.

A prototype analytical budgeting system for peacekeeping should be tested by the end of 1998.

17. A fourth version of the standard cost manual was in process as of the end of March 1999. The development of an analytical budgeting system for peacekeeping is no longer being actively pursued. In commenting on a draft of this report, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that *the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee have recommended revisions to the format of peacekeeping budgets, which were introduced into the peacekeeping mission budget submissions for fiscal year 1999/00. Budget reports will continue to be improved in accordance with the views expressed by these committees. An updated standard cost manual will be finalized by mid-1999, with the data therein to be utilized for the budgets commencing 1 July 2000. The manual is updated on an annual basis.*

B. Termination phase

1. Peace-building during the mission

18. There was no agreement in CPC on recommendation 6 on peace-building aspects of missions, or recommendation 7 on learning from experience in peace-building aspects of missions.[3] However, with respect to recommendation 7, the Committee did not intend by that action to prohibit the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations from assessing experience with any mandated activities of completed peacekeeping missions (A/51/16, part I, para. 91).

19. There are sections on peace-building in the lessons learned reports on UNAMIR (December 1996) and UNTAES (July 1998).

2. A protracted termination phase

Recommendation 8. Learning from experience in the termination aspects of missions.

All end-of-mission and lessons learned assessments should review activities during the termination phase of a mission aimed at establishing proper conditions for the transfer of responsibility to successor arrangements. An attempt should be made to draw lessons concerning the nature of conditions that would make durable success likely and so reduce the danger of losing what had been achieved.

20. There is a section on national reconciliation in the lessons learned report on UNAMIR, and sections on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and other aspects of conditions that would make durable success likely in the lessons learned report on UNTAES.

3. Successor arrangements

21. There was no agreement in CPC on recommendation 9 on project proposals for successor arrangements, or recommendation 11 on inter-agency policy on successor arrangements.

[3] As indicated in paragraph 1, recommendations 1–5 of the termination phase report concerned follow-up to the prior reports on the start-up phase.

Recommendation 10. Learning from experience in the transfer of responsibility to successor arrangements.

As a matter of standard procedure, the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in cooperation with the relevant institutions, should, within one year of the termination of a mission, review experience with the transfer of responsibility to successor arrangements.

22. The lessons learned case study on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States, dated February 1998, and the lessons learned report on UNTAES, dated July 1998, have sections on successor arrangements. The lessons learned Unit has developed a proposal for a study of successor arrangements which is awaiting funding.

4. Planning the termination phase

Recommendation 12. Learning from experience in the planning of termination.

All end-of-mission and lessons learned assessments should include reviews of experience with the planning of the termination phase.

23. Lessons of experience on planning the liquidation of a mission are found in a report entitled "Multidisciplinary peacekeeping: lessons from recent experience", dated December 1996, and the lessons learned report on UNAMIR, dated December 1996 (see also paras. 25–29 below).

Recommendation 13. Responsibility for the termination phase.

Assignments of responsibility to those in charge of components of a peacekeeping mission should include the transfer of responsibility to successor arrangements, contributions to lessons learned and end-of-mission assessments, and the formulation of proposals for adjustments to policies and procedures based on the lessons learned.

24. The standard directive for special representatives includes plans to be made in order to ensure smooth hand-over to traditional United Nations actors, who then assume responsibility, as well as requirements for end-of-assignment reports for all senior staff of the mission. With the end of the mandate of a peacekeeping operation and the departure of the substantive and political staff, the Director of Administration or Chief Administrative Officer becomes the most senior official in the mission and is in charge of all liquidation activities. The Chief Administrative Officer is required to present an end-of-mission report to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

5. Liquidation of missions

Recommendation 14. Liquidation of missions.

A. End-of-mission and lessons learned assessments and audit and investigation reports should, where their findings point to problems of a general nature, propose suitable modifications to the provisional guidelines on the liquidation of missions.

B. A critical path analysis undertaken for the liquidation process and incorporated in the guidelines should be introduced into the field mission planning process. Software for the application of such an analysis should be made available to each mission and the appropriate training conducted.

C. Arrangements should be made where needed for troop-contributing Governments to provide some military personnel to assist in securing the assets of the mission, with the prior approval of the Security Council. The terms of reference of the civilian police component assigned to a mission should include the investigations of incidents involving United Nations personnel and thefts of United Nations property.

25. OIOS recognizes that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made major improvements in the way that liquidations are conducted. Peacekeeping missions have been of a much shorter duration over the last few years, which has placed an additional burden on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to rapidly liquidate these missions with little advance warning. This in turn has placed greater emphasis on the planning process and the implementation of guidelines to aid mission management with the liquidation process.

26. A recent OIOS audit found that insufficient attention had been paid to lessons learned from past liquidations. The Lessons Learned Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations deals with administrative aspects of missions only to the extent they effect the substantive work of the missions. OIOS therefore believes that the Field Administration and Logistics Division should designate a focal point to deal with lessons learned and incorporate these lessons into the liquidation procedures of future missions.

In commenting on a draft of the present report, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that *the provisional guidelines for the liquidation of field missions have effectively been updated through issuance of specific instructions to all missions; however, preparation of a consolidated revised text of the guidelines document will be undertaken only as resources become available. Nevertheless, the Field Administration and Logistics Division has incorporated many of the lessons it has learned from previous mission liquidations into current liquidation activities.*

27. The provisional guidelines for the liquidation of field missions advises liquidating missions to prepare a comprehensive mission liquidation plan inclusive of critical path activities. A standard critical path analysis software has been designated for use in field missions.

28. OIOS has frequently reported on inadequate security arrangements in missions during the liquidation phase. In commenting on a draft of the present report, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that *security is a major concern during the liquidation process, and liquidating missions are required by the Field Administration and Logistics Division to develop a security plan which will protect personnel and property during the liquidation process, with particular focus on material both during transit to and storage at the outloading point.*

29. An OIOS report on the liquidation of peacekeeping missions dealing with these and other issues will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

6. Disposition of assets

Recommendation 15. Policy on disposition of assets during the liquidation of the mission.

A. The existing policy on the disposition of assets during the liquidation of a mission should be reviewed by the end of 1996 in the light of recent experience on the costs and benefits of shipment of equipment through Brindisi.

B. Subsequent to this review, detailed guidelines for working out a cost-benefit analysis of transfer of assets should be drafted, as recommended by the Board of Auditors in its liquidation audit of ONUMOZ.

30. The Field Administration and Logistics Division has established a revised policy for the transfer of liquidating mission's assets. The Secretary-General, in a report to the General Assembly (A/51/905), which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/1 B, stated that the guiding principle for deciding what items are to be transferred to UNLB for possible reuse will be whether it is cost-effective to retain individual items, taking into account their condition, the cost of any necessary repairs or refurbishment and shipping cost to UNLB, as well as their remaining useful life. It is therefore proposed that the items to be shipped to UNLB in the future should have at least two years' useful life remaining, and be either serviceable or repairable at not more than 30 per cent of their depreciated value. Other qualitative factors in the decision-making process include their anticipated usefulness; the cost of purchasing new items; their physical condition; and the quantity of such assets already on hand at UNLB.

31. Recent audits have led OIOS to conclude that the Field Administration and Logistics Division should continue to review its criteria for deciding whether to dispose of major assets or to retain them. In the OIOS view, it is necessary to first establish the market value of all major assets before determining whether to retain assets or to dispose of them. This would result in a more informed decision and avoid repairing of equipment when it would be uneconomical to do so. In commenting on a draft of the present report, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that *regarding the need to establish "market value" of all major assets before deciding to dispose of them, we are of the opinion that in the light of long procurement lead times, it is more important to first determine whether or not the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has a pressing operational requirement for retention of the assets for use in another operation.*

32. A major section of the OIOS report to the Generai Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the liquidation of missions will examine the issue of disposition of assets, including such topics as auction sales and shipments to UNLB and other missions.

7. Some termination issues in problematic missions

33. There was no agreement in CPC on recommendation 16 on peacekeeping and other field activities in countries with continuing civil strife.

III. Conclusions

34. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made a concerted effort to implement the recommendations in OIOS evaluation reports on peacekeeping that were endorsed by CPC.

35. Lessons of experience are being formulated and applied. A noteworthy feature of the July 1998 lessons learned report on UNTAES is that the first part describes and assesses the implementation in UNTAES of lessons learned from prior peacekeeping missions, and is explicit about lessons of past experience which were not fully implemented. Most of the issues raised in the in-depth evaluations of the start-up and termination phases are examined in recent lessons learned reports. Cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information on the information aspects of missions, which was problematic at the time the first evaluation report was prepared, now appears to be functioning reasonably well. OIOS also recognizes significant progress in the manner in which missions are liquidated.

36. One area of disappointment needs to be highlighted. The most basic depository of past experience, a comprehensive indexed archive of mission SOPs, has yet to be created, and so is still not available to missions through the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Intranet. The need to create such an archive has been reiterated in several reports since the first evaluation of peacekeeping in 1994: recommendation 2 of the termination phase report established a deadline of 30 September 1996, and two years later, recommendation 1 of the triennial review of the start-up phase established a deadline of 30 September 1998. Both these deadlines were agreed to by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. OIOS hopes that the archive can be established by the end of 1999.

37. OIOS will keep under review:

(a) The establishment of an indexed archive of mission SOPs;

(b) The issuance of updated guideline SOPs.

(*Signed*) Karl Th. **Paschke**
Under-Secretary-General
for Internal Oversight Services

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination questions: implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Progress report on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General

The present report is submitted in response to a request by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session. It shows progress made in the implementation of the Special Initiative on Africa through the activities undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system since the last progress report (E/AC.51/1998/7). It also addresses issues of coordination faced in the implementation of the Special Initiative at the country, subregional and regional levels and describes some measures taken in response to the comments and recommendations of the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

* E/AC.51/1999/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to a request by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session in June 1998 that a progress report on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s be submitted for its consideration at its thirty-ninth session in June 1999 (A/53/16,[1] part one, para. 333).

2. The report aims at showing progress achieved in the implementation of the Special Initiative for the period from June 1998 to May 1999. It includes measures taken in response to the recommendations set out in the report of the Committee (A/53/16, part one, paras. 329–332) and activities related to the two priority areas of economic diversification and regional cooperation and integration.

3. The report is organized as follows: section two reviews progress made since the last report in the implementation of the priority areas of the Special Initiative in relation to the comments and recommendations of the Committee. It is based mainly on the submissions of the lead and collaborating agencies. Section three deals with the issues of coordination at the country, subregional and regional levels; and section four describes the measures taken in response to the recommendations of the Committee at its thirty-eighth session.

II. Implementation of the Special Initiative since its last consideration by the Committee

A. Overall progress

4. Since the submission of the last report, there has been a tremendous effort to consolidate results achieved and to spur further progress. Areas where good progress has been achieved include governance, information technology for development, education, health, and population and gender. Noted progress is emerging in other areas such as poverty eradication, trade access and opportunities, diversification of African economies, regional cooperation and integration, water, environment and South-South cooperation. In some other areas, although activities may be proceeding, the system of information flow does not yet allow their impact to be fully assessed.

5. With regard to governance, the Africa Governance Forum series sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has continued successfully. It has facilitated exchange of information and experiences among Governments and civil society organizations; it is helping to build partnerships and promote the replication of "best practices". It is promoting a more participatory approach to governance in a number of countries.

6. With regard to the priority area of harnessing information technology for development, for which ECA is the lead agency, good progress has been made within the framework of the African Information Society Initiative and on key sectoral applications, such as electronic commerce and health.

7. With regard to the priority area of basic education, under the coordination of the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations organizations formulated and agreed on a joint strategy for accelerating enrolment in 16 countries in Africa with the lowest primary enrolment rate. This joint strategy was transmitted by each of the concerned agencies to its country representative for implementation under the leadership of the resident coordinator.

8. In the area of health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank improved the understanding of African countries of the health sector reforms for better service delivery by exchange of experiences with country teams from Ministries of Health and Finance. Successful replication in other subregions of the Cotonou and Addis Ababa meetings on health sector reform, held respectively in September 1998 and May 1999, augurs well for progress in this sector.

9. The implementation by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) of the population component of the Special Initiative has contributed to the improvement of partnership and collaboration within the United Nations system and with other partners; it has had a positive impact and resulted in added value. The areas of intervention included reproductive health; reduction of high maternal morbidity and mortality; prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; increase in the use of contraception; youth and adolescent reproductive health problems; family education with regard to population; information, education and communication in support of reproductive health; human rights, including reproductive rights and gender issues; formulation or revision of population policies and programmes; national capacity-building; resource mobilization, etc.

10. There has also been considerable improvement in macroeconomic policies, with greater emphasis on social development in many African countries. The private sector now plays an increasingly greater role in those countries. A resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Special Initiative is under way in 1999, involving the World Bank and the secretariat of the Special Initiative.

11. Since the last report to the Committee, some activities were also undertaken (a) to reinforce internalization of the Special Initiative by the field offices involved in the Initiative programme; (b) to analyse the impact of the Initiative on countries; (c) to organize an exhibition in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with non-governmental organizations to give prominence to the organizations of the United Nations system working together; (d) to mobilize resources; and (e) to enhance collaboration between the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat of the Special Initiative.

12. The feedback received from resident coordinators in 18 countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) indicates that the ongoing collaboration has given momentum to implementation at the country level. Retreats and other country team consultations have served to demonstrate the unique benefits derived from the active participation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in the Special Initiative. Emphasis has also been placed upon the advantages of cross-fertilization between the United Nations development assistance frameworks and the Special Initiative, thereby facilitating smoother and more effective operations in the field.

13. The secretariat of the Special Initiative has initiated action at the national level to analyse the potential and impact of the Special Initiative with a view to enhancing United Nations system support for national development priorities in measurable terms. In Zambia, a collaborative plan was adopted at a retreat of various United Nations system representatives, including the ECA and its Subregional Development Centre for Southern Africa, which played a significant role.

14. At the global level, the United Kingdom United Nations Association and the secretariat of the Special Initiative organized, in December 1998, an exhibition and seminar in London, entitled "United Nations Special Initiative on Africa — Opportunities for global partnership", which was opened by H.R.H. the Princess Royal. ECA, UNESCO, UNFPA and the World Bank participated in the event, which was attended by various non-governmental organizations and media. It gave prominence to the organizations of the United Nations system working together, particularly in the areas of education, health, governance, the private sector and information technology.

15. An initial resource mobilization meeting held in October 1998, organized jointly by the World Bank and the secretariat of the Special Initiative, resulted in the circulation of a report to the chairmen of the Steering Committee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on the Special Initiative to a wider group of members including UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA and WHO. A further meeting is planned in 1999, on the basis of which a resource mobilization strategy will be designed for consideration by the Steering Committee.

16. The Office of the Special Coordinator and the secretariat of the Special Initiative have pursued their collaboration through the preparation of parliamentary reports, information flow and joint meetings.

B. Governance

17. The two lead agencies for the governance component, UNDP and ECA, have concentrated their efforts on strengthening the Africa Governance Forum process, which aims to facilitate a consensus-building dialogue among Governments and civil society organizations, capacity enhancement, more effective in-country coordination and greater mobilization of resources for governance programmes, and ultimately to reinforce the efforts and the capacity of the African countries to promote good governance.

18. Building on the first Forum, held in July 1997 at Addis Ababa, the second Forum, held at Accra in June 1998, concentrated on two main issues, namely, accountability and transparency in government and public service, with special emphasis on the need to fight corruption. The second Forum was attended by 80 participants, including high-level government officials from 10 African countries, civil society organizations, experts from the United Nations and other international partners. Participants agreed that the Forums should provide a vehicle for continuously mobilizing support for better coordination and focus of the various efforts towards good governance on the continent. The next Forum, which will be held at Bamako in June 1999, will focus on

good governance and conflict management; preparations are being carried out by a Headquarters-based task force.

19. A meeting on comprehending and mastering conflict, funded by UNDP and sponsored by the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies, was held at Bamako in November 1998; it reviewed reports presented by six countries (Angola, Burundi, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda and Sierra Leone) on their experience with conflicts that had erupted into warfare and, in certain cases, into genocide. The need for greater understanding of the genesis of conflicts was stressed, and while it was recognized that unique circumstances might differentiate conflicts, certain causes — dearth of visionary leadership; absence of good governance, especially transparency and accountability; neglect of human rights; pervasive poverty; inequitable distribution of wealth and resources; and social and cultural exclusion which breeds ethnic clashes — are common to all. The conclusions of the meeting will be used to prepare documentation for the discussions at the third Forum.

20. As an integral part of the Forum process, UNDP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs are supporting an Africa governance inventory project for nine countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Uganda). The project will compile comprehensive databases and analyses of governance activities by country for better coordination and resource mobilization and will eventually enhance the capacity of each country to lead the process to ensure its sustainability. Furthermore, UNDP is trying to establish benchmarks to measure progress in such areas as improved national capacity, coordination and resource mobilization.

21. Donor contribution through the Forum series has been extremely important, especially from Norway, Switzerland and the European Community. Japan also made commitments during the second Forum and at the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development. There is a growing interest in the process worldwide; it is becoming a useful reference in the international community of development partners. In line with the Special Initiative's emphasis on achieving synergies with other organizations, ECA and UNDP have been seeking more effective collaboration and coordination with the World Bank, the Global Coalition for Africa, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Commonwealth Secretariat and others pursuing governance programmes in Africa. UNDP, for example, has identified civil service reform and capacity-building assessments as two areas of collaboration with the World Bank. It has also coordinated with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) a participatory development and good governance exercise in Mauritania.

22. In response to the Secretary-General's call for the search for appropriate ways and means of realizing transparency measures and adopting military budgets that are commensurate with development concerns in Africa, UNDP is launching the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development. That programme has a total budget of $5.229 million for the period 1999–2003 with contributions of $1.9 million from UNDP, $1 million each from Norway and Sweden, $0.565 million from Belgium, $0.5 million from the United Kingdom and $0.264 million from Canada. The programme will address the security and development problems associated with the growing proliferation of light weapons and small arms. It will work in partnership with Governments, organizations such as OAU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), non-governmental organizations and weapons suppliers in backstopping the implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons adopted by the ECOWAS States in 1998.

23. Other activities on governance undertaken by UNDP include a recently signed agreement with the Government of Mozambique to provide technical and financial assistance for the country's second multi-party election, scheduled for October 1999. UNDP will help to strengthen the National Election Commission and the Secretariat for Electoral Administration, and to coordinate international donor assistance, which is expected to be around $40 million. A UNDP-supported project in the amount of $6.6 million was also carried out in Zambia, to provide materials to assist local elections, including logistical support to local non-governmental organizations to monitor the elections. In Burundi, UNDP has designed a $1.9 million programme to provide training to improve the judiciary and modernize government bodies. UNDP also provided $0.5 million to promote good governance and democracy in Lesotho; that project aims to improve the judicial system, promote human rights and expand opportunities for political participation, in addition to strengthening the independent electoral commission to ensure free and fair elections.

24. As the lead agency for the implementation of the component of the Special Initiative on peace-building, conflict resolution and national reconciliation: communications for peace-building, UNESCO has carried out studies on communications and peace-building in Burundi, Ethiopia, Liberia and Mali. It has organized national workshops in Ethiopia, Liberia and Mali, during which the findings of those studies were discussed and

recommendations made for formulating national plans of action for using communications for peace-building. A conceptual framework and strategy document on communications for peace-building has been finalized and is to be published by mid-1999.

C. Harnessing information technology for development

25. Within the subprogramme theme "Harnessing information technology for development", major activities were undertaken in 1998 to implement the African Information Society Initiative: an Action Framework for Building Africa's Information and Communication Infrastructure, adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1996.

26. The African Information Society Initiative has been implemented at the national, subregional and regional levels, with emphasis on the areas of information society awareness, policy, infrastructure and connectivity, sector applications, content development, national information and communication infrastructure policies, plans and strategies and democratizing access to the information society. Throughout the implementation, ECA has been advised by the African Technical Advisory Committee, which comprises African experts in the various component areas of the Information Initiative. Partnership has also been established with multilateral and bilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, first through the Regional Coordinating Committee on the Information Initiative and, since 1997, through the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa, which maintains a joint website and database of project activities. Joint projects implemented include policy and awareness workshops, technology learning centre projects and the organization of major conferences such as the Global Connectivity for Africa Conference, held at Addis Ababa in June 1998. ECA works with the Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa in the Global Knowledge Partnership.

27. The African Information Society Initiative is implemented by ECA by means of information dissemination (by website, electronic mailing lists, print and CD-ROM), advisory services, workshops, seminars and conferences. Advisory services have been provided in five key areas outlined in the Information Initiative, including the development of national information and communication infrastructure plans and policies; the improvement of sectoral applications of information and communication technologies, especially in health, education, statistics, agriculture and trade; and the improvement of human resources and telecommunications infrastructure. The development of sectoral applications (covering distance education, electronic commerce, health, statistics and agriculture) and content development (particularly website development) was also included. The workshops and seminars covered a wide range of topics, including Internet technologies, national network development and Web-based information systems, the economics of the Internet, and the use of information and communication technologies in statistics, trade and health.

28. There has been significant achievement in terms of the development of national information and communication infrastructure plans and a national framework for the African Information Society Initiative. The Information Initiative has been widely implemented in Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda, and the framework has also been introduced into Ethiopia, Namibia and Rwanda. Significant progress has been made in the area of harnessing information technology for development in key sectoral areas, especially in electronic trade and health applications, during the reporting period.

29. Seven countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia and Nigeria) are participating in the UNDP Internet Initiative Project designed to strengthen capacity and connectivity. Angola and Rwanda are expected to join in the near future.

30. UNESCO has undertaken a series of activities in this field. Two multi-purpose community pilot projects for technology learning centres in Mali and Uganda are under way with the support of the Danish International Development Agency, while the planning for three projects in Benin, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania has been finalized for implementation in early 1999.

31. As regards networking, subregional training groups were organized at Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (August 1998), Libreville (October 1998) and Niamey (November 1998), the latter two under the auspices of the Institut africain d'informatique. A second pilot project, on creating learning networks for African teachers, has been initiated in Senegal and a contract has been established to develop a website of the 50 best African websites in UNESCO's fields of competence.

32. UNESCO and ECA have provided assistance to the Government of Rwanda in the organization of a national workshop on telematics policies (November–December 1998). The electronic anthology for the Sahel has been

completed and will be finalized and distributed early in 1999.

33. A meeting that brought together 30 African Telecommunication Ministers and 400 "market leaders" on communications for development was organized in 1998. Its objective was to explore connectivity options and opportunities for utilizing information technology for trade and commerce. The recommendations adopted called for regulatory reviews and reforms, universal access, funding, capacity-building and training, and common approaches on connectivity. Private sector involvement was viewed as critical for progress in this area.

D. Education

34. During the period under review, Special Initiative activities in education focused on improving primary education in 16 countries with low primary enrolment, namely, Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Somalia, and on advancing basic education for all African children. Other activities in more advanced countries, like Zimbabwe, are being supported in the context of the Special Initiative.

35. A technical working group established pursuant to the discussions by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session, and composed of representatives of UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank, met in New York in September 1998 to review progress and accelerate the implementation of an education action plan (low-enrolment country strategy) for the 16 countries listed above. The working group agreed that, in the future, the organizations involved in the low-enrolment country strategy would submit a joint report to the ACC Steering Committee. It also agreed to focus, at its next meetings, on three key issues, namely, (a) the current implications of various frameworks, such as sector investment programmes and sector-wide action plans, for the low-enrolment country strategy and the identification of means for addressing obstacles to their implementation; (b) mobilization of additional resources; and (c) monitoring of progress in implementing the low-enrolment country strategy.

36. UNICEF, which chaired the September 1998 meeting of the technical working group jointly with the secretariat of the Special Initiative, has established, through a survey of its offices in all low-enrolment countries, that there is a high level of interest in participating in activities in this area. The survey also revealed that, in almost all the countries concerned, UNICEF is already actively involved in related activities with UNESCO and the World Bank. As a result, UNICEF requested its country offices to contact their counterparts in Government, the World Bank and UNESCO to discuss forward strategies.

37. UNESCO has devoted more resources to basic education for all African children in its 1998–1999 programme and budget. This has enabled the organization to take concrete measures to help implement the statement of commitment adopted by the Seventh Conference of African Ministers of Education, namely the establishment of a secretariat in the UNESCO office at Pretoria to assist the Intergovernmental Committee to follow up the recommendations of the Conference and the establishment of an International Institute for Capacity-Building aimed at extending and improving basic education for all African children.

38. More specifically, UNESCO has been working jointly with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank to give support to the Government of Burkina Faso in establishing its ten-year plan on basic education for all (1998–2007). Together with UNDP and the World Bank, UNESCO extended assistance in 1998 to the Government of Senegal in the preparation of a ten-year programme on basic education to be submitted for donor support at a round-table meeting. UNESCO has continued to participate in the preparation and implementation of activities related to the education sector development programme in Ethiopia. It continues to give the highest priority to basic education opportunities for the "unreached", with special emphasis on the educational needs of girls and women in rural areas. Jointly with the World Bank, UNESCO was instrumental in the launching of a programme for improving the learning perspective for primary education in rural Africa in six African countries (Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia). Case studies have been completed and the related results presented and discussed at a joint UNESCO/World Bank seminar held in Zambia in December 1998.

39. As part of basic education for all African children, activities regarding pre-school education and special needs in education have been stressed by UNESCO, which has called the attention of its partners in the Special Initiative to the importance of developing joint activities in these two areas. With regard to early childhood and family education, UNESCO is implementing three projects in francophone West Africa aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities in the areas of research, training and programming activities. The first project, the *Clos d'enfants*, involves

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Senegal and aims to mobilize women to create innovative early childhood structures. The second project is the establishment in Mali of an early childhood resource centre for francophone Africa, while the third project aims to set up an early childhood francophone African network, involving Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, the Niger and Senegal. UNESCO is in the second phase (1998–1999) of its inclusive and community support programme, the objective of which is to improve access to schools and quality education for children, youth and adults with special education needs. The project involves Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali and is supported by Denmark, Norway and Finland. A similar project funded by Portugal involves the Portuguese-speaking countries of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

40. From the activities carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system to improve primary education enrolment and advance basic education for all African children, the following has emerged: (a) despite significant results achieved, low enrolment in primary education and the low literacy rate in the 16 selected countries is a matter of great concern; the proportion of the school-age population out of school remains very high, while the schooling rate of girls remains low in many countries; (b) efficiency is much higher when the international organizations work together with the countries concerned. The joint memorandum on the Special Initiative addressed by UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank to their representatives, coordinators and task team managers is expected to enhance effectiveness in the area of education.

E. Health

41. As the two lead agencies for the component of the Special Initiative on health, WHO and the World Bank have been mobilizing efforts to promote the implementation of this priority programme. WHO participated in the preparation of a draft health protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, and to the Protocol for Relations between the African Economic Community and the regional economic communities.

42. The first inter-country meeting of the health cluster was held in Benin in November 1998. It brought together ministers and senior officials of health and finance, civil society organizations and private sector representatives of 14 West African States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo). Representatives of coordinating organizations participating in the meeting were WHO, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, the African Development Bank, UNDP and UNESCO.

43. The purpose of the meeting was to increase understanding of the Special Initiative and to exchange experience on health reform and sector programmes with country teams from ministries of health and finance. Follow-up — converting general ideas into practical action — is now proceeding at the country level. A second meeting with objectives similar to the first but with the participation of different countries, is to be held in May 1999 at Addis Ababa. A third and probably final meeting in this initial series is planned for southern Africa in September 1999.

44. The participants in the Benin meeting agreed that the following ingredients are essential for successful health reform in African countries: political will; a global vision for health service delivery; consensus building, particularly with external partners; effective and equitable budget allocation, especially for preventive and primary health care; placing emphasis on rural areas; diversified sources of financing; identification of indicators of progress such as morbidity rates by gender and age; and the eradication of endemic diseases.

45. The Benin meeting recommended that a draft action plan on health similar to those for primary education should be prepared and discussed with United Nations resident coordinators and country teams for subsequent endorsement by the World Bank task managers. It further recommended that the World Bank Norwegian Trust Fund for upstream activities should be supplemented with additional resources.

46. Combating HIV/AIDS in Africa has become an important priority for United Nations organizations. With about 10 per cent of the world's population, Africa has 63 per cent of global HIV/AIDS cases. There are currently 21 million Africans infected with AIDS, and an average of more than 3,800 adults are infected with the virus every day in Africa. An estimated 87 per cent of the world's children infected with the HIV virus live in Africa and more than 8 million children in sub-Saharan Africa have been orphaned by AIDS. AIDS has lowered average life expectancy levels by as much as 10 to 17 years in some countries. In hardest-hit Zimbabwe, AIDS has reduced life expectancy by more than 20 years. AIDS has overtaken malaria and other diseases as the leading cause of death for adults between the ages of 15 and 49 in Botswana, Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and in capital cities such as Abidjan, Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Ouagadougou.

47. In a number of African countries, HIV/AIDS has already undone or threatens to undo many of the gains in child survival and quality of life achieved over the last three decades with the support of UNICEF and other development partners. As a sponsor of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in support of the Africa AIDS Partnership, UNICEF has intensified its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa by applying more resources to that cause and by collaborating with WHO and the World Bank in developing policy options and strategies for HIV/AIDS programmes, with UNFPA on reproductive health and AIDS indicators, and with UNDP on support for the Mayors' Initiative in Africa. UNICEF is working in partnership with the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Authority, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others to organize a bilateral donor consultation, scheduled for April 1999. It is also collaborating with WHO and UNAIDS to develop materials on the Africa AIDS Partnership for the upcoming meetings of OAU Health Ministers and ECA Finance and Planning Ministers scheduled for April and May, respectively. In consultation with the other UNAIDS sponsors, UNICEF has assumed the lead-agency role for field-level support to programme initiatives to reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to child, a prominent priority in eastern and southern Africa where at least five countries estimate that one in five pregnant women is HIV-positive.

48. UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank are key partners in the area of malaria prevention and control. UNICEF is a partner in the "roll-back malaria" campaign and is the lead agency for field-level support to community-based promotion and use of insecticide-treated bed nets and to ensuring the availability of appropriate drugs. UNICEF is working closely with the World Bank in its Africa Initiative on Malaria, particularly with the various World Bank missions that now have covered many countries in the sub-Saharan region. The campaign aims to cut the number of deaths from malaria by 50 per cent by 2010 and 75 per cent by 2015. UNICEF regards the resurgence in donor interest in malaria as a major opportunity for collaboration to eliminate the worst consequences of an important contributor to child and maternal mortality in the region.

49. UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and the World Bank continue to work together on reduction of maternal mortality, which is closely related to HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa, as well as to female genital mutilation. UNICEF has supported a wide range of field programmes and policy development measures in collaboration with those agencies, including decentralized systems of maternal mortality monitoring, improved maternal nutrition, and the establishment of community-based communications and transportation systems to ensure access to emergency obstetric care. Female genital mutilation is a regional priority for UNICEF in the western and central Africa region, and UNICEF was instrumental in the recent passage in Senegal of legislation banning the practice. UNICEF and WHO are also collaborating in the Bamako Initiative and other health sector reform initiatives in Africa. The implementation of the Bamako Initiative and similar strategies in Africa was reviewed in March 1999 at an international meeting of 46 African countries held at Bamako.

50. A recent decision by UNICEF resulted in a reallocation of about 7 per cent of the Fund's general resources towards programme priorities in need of special acceleration in 1999 and 2000. Sub-Saharan Africa received about two thirds of those funds or about $14 million. Most of the funds will be devoted to accelerating programmes related to HIV/AIDS, malaria and immunization, including polio eradication.

51. The World Bank and WHO seek to mobilize resources to address particular barriers to the establishment of sustainable and sound sector-wide approaches through which most of the financial support from external sources is provided. The preparation and implementation of the sector-wide approaches are being led by Governments and conducted in cooperation with external partner agencies active in the country concerned.

F. Population and gender

52. As the lead agency for the population component of the Special Initiative, UNFPA has identified, in collaboration with other agencies, priority population issues for which collective collaboration and coordination within the United Nations system and with other partners can have a positive impact and result in added value. These include reproductive health; education; formulation/revision of population policies and programmes; collection of benchmark, gender-disaggregated basic social services and demographic data for planning, monitoring and evaluation of programmes; national capacity-building; and resource mobilization.

53. Reproductive health including HIV/AIDS prevention is a key component of development in sub-Saharan Africa. The achievements made have been through collaboration with various organizations, including UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP,

UNESCO and International Planned Parenthood Federation. For example, the implementation of the new health policy in Cameroon is being supported by UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank. Successful male participation in reproductive health services has increased in many African countries, including Ghana, Namibia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Religious leaders have become important allies and are playing a major advocacy role in the implementation of reproductive health, family planning and sexual health activities in countries such as Ghana, Namibia, the Niger, Senegal and Uganda. Information, education and communication components have been integrated into basic health services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, with particular attention to the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

54. UNFPA, in collaboration with other sponsors of UNAIDS (UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank) has, at both regional and country levels, been supporting efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in Africa. As part of the promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality, UNFPA jointly with the UNAIDS secretariat supported the Societies of African Women against AIDS, which organized a Conference on Women and HIV/AIDS at Dakar in December 1998, with the participation of 28 African countries. Also at Dakar, UNFPA supported an international conference on HIV/AIDS in African prisons in February 1998, which attracted participants from 35 African countries.

55. UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and ECA have collaborated in activities relating to youth and adolescent reproductive health. UNFPA, UNICEF and ECA collaborated in organizing a youth forum at the ECA fortieth anniversary celebration, in which 22 African countries participated. The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon in 1998, was organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS, and the Government of Portugal; 47 African countries participated. UNFPA, UNESCO and bilateral donors have also collaborated to support family life education, information, education and communication, and counselling and family planning services for youth, in multi-purpose youth centres coordinated by the Government with donors and non-governmental organizations. Despite these achievements the region is still experiencing problems of limited coverage, insufficient number of trained personnel in reproductive health, and high staff mobility and attrition.

56. Given the conflicts in many African countries, which have resulted in the displacement of population, UNFPA has been increasingly providing reproductive health services to the displaced persons and refugees, particularly in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Sierra Leone. Through memoranda of understanding signed with concerned organizations (UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), UNFPA has been assisting countries in emergency situations. UNFPA organized a consultative meeting in October 1998 to share experiences and define funding and strategies for assistance in emergency situations. In addition, it has assisted in rapid assessment of the demographic situation of the displaced persons for the joint United Nations appeals in Burundi, where the result of the assessment is being used by donors to plan intervention programmes, and in Eritrea.

57. At the national level, progress continues to be made in the integration of the population question into development policies, plans and programmes. The implementation of population programmes in Africa continues to improve, owing to (a) increased awareness of population issues among policy makers and traditional and religious leaders — a total of 22 countries have officially adopted population policies and 15 countries are revising their policy documents to include the goals and recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994, and other conferences; (b) more involvement of Government, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, youth groups and local communities in the design and implementation of population activities; and (c) increased expertise available at the country level to implement population activities. Almost all countries have recognized that the high rate of population growth without concurrent economic growth is a major constraint on continued and sustained economic and social development. However, progress in implementation of population programmes has slowed because of political and social instabilities, particularly in the Great Lakes region, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone.

58. As part of the implementation of the Special Initiative, UNFPA is facilitating and supporting the planning, conduct, analysis and dissemination of censuses in 26 African countries in collaboration with: UNDP, the World Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Australian AID, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Swedish International Development Agency, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, USAID, the European Union and Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. In addition, UNFPA,

as a member of the Inter-Agency Census Coordinating Committee for sub-Saharan Africa, organizes census coordination meetings at global and country levels to mobilize resources for censuses in Africa. UNFPA is also collaborating with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the preparation of the 2001 Census Initiative to harmonize census operations in the 14 SADC member States in the period 1998–2002. The objective is to strengthen the capabilities of the SADC member countries in data collection, processing and dissemination, particularly ensuring the proper planning and timely conduct of population and housing censuses and large-scale surveys.

59. UNFPA has established a network of African women ministers and parliamentarians to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Cairo Conference and the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women. In 1998, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, supported a conference of the network which was attended by 123 participants from 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose of the conference was to assess and strengthen the role of Africa's women ministers and parliamentarians in promoting reproductive and sexual health and rights, women's empowerment and gender equality. The conference reiterated the need to reinforce the commitments of African Governments to implementing the agreements made at the Cairo and Beijing conferences for the benefit of Africans, especially women and girls.

60. Other relevant activities in line with the advocacy role of UNFPA include a consultative meeting (December 1998) in New York on female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices affecting the lives of women and girls, and an inter-agency meeting organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on the elimination of violence against women on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March 1999) in New York.

61. UNFPA is collaborating with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECA, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WHO and UNIFEM in the provision of technical support to sub-Saharan African countries on demand through the technical support system and the country support team. The objective of the technical support system is to build national capacity and to contribute to the sustainability of national population programmes through a three-tier arrangement. In addition to support, through country programmes, for building national human resources capacity, UNFPA provides assistance to the Mauritius training centre and also for regional training in information, education and communication for both francophone and anglophone countries, at Abidjan and Nairobi respectively. As part of building a critical mass of human resources capacity for sustainability, UNFPA in collaboration with other donors (e.g., ILO in Namibia) and the private sector supports both pre-service and in-service training programmes.

62. Resource mobilization for the Special Initiative has been part of general UNFPA mobilization efforts and funds for the activities supported by UNFPA have come from the regular budget resources. The amounts allocated for the implementation of population programmes in Africa have steadily increased, from $81 million in 1996 to $85.4 million in 1997 and $116.5 million in 1998 (allocations). In addition, UNFPA mobilizes multilateral and bilateral resources to supplement its regular resources to support country population programmes in Africa.

G. Poverty eradication

63. Notwithstanding the recent economic turnaround, poverty in Africa remains pervasive, as 300 million people, or more than 40 per cent of the continent's population, reportedly live on less than one dollar a day. That figure is likely to rise, as Africa's GDP is expected to decline to about 3.5 per cent in 1999, and as Africa experiences "jobless" economic growth.

64. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force under component 15 of the Special Initiative was set up in April 1998 by the ACC Steering Committee, with a mandate to analyse issues relevant to poverty reduction through support for the informal sector and employment-generating opportunities and to develop a programme of action to achieve the objectives of this component. Members of the Task Force include ILO and ECA as lead agencies, and UNDP, FAO, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNESCO, WFP, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as cooperating agencies. The Task Force prepared a programme of action which consists of six subprogramme areas, namely, enabling environment for informal sector development; access to financial services; education and training; industrial and manufacturing activities; rural non-farm activities; and infrastructure. The subprogramme areas are expected to be implemented simultaneously for maximum impact in individual African countries.

65. Since the endorsement of the programme of action by the ACC Steering Committee, constructive consultations have been held. A task force met in March 1999 to highlight major constraints, identify challenges and establish guidelines for the way forward in implementing the programme at the country level, as well as at the subregional and regional levels. The task force agreed to revise the programme of action, emphasizing the value added of the holistic nature of the programme and the linkages among the six subprogrammes for greater synergy, effectiveness and impact. In view of the importance of country ownership and political support for its effective implementation, the revised programme of action will be transmitted by the resident coordinators to African Governments. Through a process of sensitization and advocacy, which will take 6 to 18 months at the country level, national programmes of action will be formulated, followed by resource mobilization.

66. Beyond the Task Force, the United Nations organizations have, individually or in cooperation with others, undertaken activities aimed at poverty reduction in Africa. Thus, in the area of microfinance, the World Bank, in cooperation with UNDP and other partners, is providing support for the development of microfinance institutions, through mechanisms such as the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the Small Enterprise Development Committee.

67. The Office of the Special Coordinator prepared in 1998 a publication bringing together 14 case studies of innovative efforts of African people towards poverty eradication. This was prepared in the spirit of disseminating good practices and approaches to poverty eradication based on the efforts of African countries and their peoples, including non-governmental organizations. The Office is currently preparing fact sheets on approaches to microcredit with a view to evolving suitable and appropriate microcredit financing schemes and practices for Africa. The Office also organized in December 1998 an Asia-Africa meeting on increasing productivity and competitiveness in the informal sector in Africa, which provided an opportunity to exchange Asian-African experiences in increasing productivity, including marketing strategies, in the informal sector.

68. The International Labour Organization's community-based training approach for informal sector training is a useful methodology being applied in African countries for employment and income generation in rural and urban areas. In addition, a host of other ILO programmes and initiatives on employment creation through microenterprise development were created, including a project to strengthen the Confederation of Informal Sector organizations for East Africa, and the Jobs for Africa programme.

69. The International Labour Organization also has ongoing projects in labour-intensive infrastructure works in some African countries. They aim to provide advice, information and training concerning labour-intensive works, as well as training and logistical support for local contractors and consultants involved in the implementation of labour-based programmes; and to enable communities to identify and prioritize infrastructure needs which cannot be met by the central government. Labour-intensive infrastructure works serve the dual purpose of creating employment and incomes and developing basic infrastructure for urban and rural development activities.

70. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has developed a portfolio of programmes in industrial and manufacturing activities for the informal sector in seven pilot countries in Africa with the objective of promoting sustainable private-sector-led industrial development through the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization programme.

71. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has initiated projects on food processing and preservation in some African countries, with the dual objective of improving food supplies and creating employment through promoting rural non-farm activities.

H. Trade access and opportunities

72. In the light of the request made by the ACC Steering Committee at its 7th meeting, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in consultation with UNIDO, organized an inter-agency meeting on trade, investment and industrial development in Africa at Geneva in November 1998. The meeting was attended by representatives of ECA, FAO, ILO, IMF, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), UNIDO, UNDP and the World Trade Organization (WTO). UNCTAD has also initiated a study of the high costs of transport in Africa and the effects on Africa's trade competitiveness and on the costs of imports and hence balance of payments of the economies concerned.

73. The Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance, including for Human and Institutional Capacity-building, to Support Least Developed Countries in Their Trade and Trade-related Activities (participating agencies UNCTAD, ITC, IMF, World Bank, WTO and UNDP) was endorsed at a High-level Meeting on Integrated Initiatives for Least Developed Countries' Trade Development held at Geneva in October 1997 under WTO auspices. The six agencies involved have prepared individual responses in the

light of needs assessment submissions by 34 least developed countries. The second phase, which consists of organizing full-scale round-table meetings for each of the least developed countries, is under way. Sixteen African least developed countries are currently at various stages of preparations for trade-related round-table meetings: Angola, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. With regard to 11 of those countries, a round-table meeting will be held in the next 12 months. Preparations for the other countries which have indicated their intention of organizing a meeting could be undertaken by organizing a "launch workshop" involving all stakeholders, to build capacity, enhance ownership and generate awareness of the Integrated Framework. The Inter-Agency Working Group on the Integrated Framework, which held its 16th meeting on 16 and 17 February 1999 at IMF headquarters in Washington, D.C., agreed to the preparation of a draft outline of elements that a round-table meeting document should ideally contain which would be provided to least developed countries upon request for assistance in the preparation of such a meeting and to other development partners for comments; the preparation of a realistic timetable by the Administrative Unit of ITC; the organization of launch workshops which would brief participants on the means and objectives of the Integrated Framework and would give guidelines on the process for producing a successful multi-year programme; and the creation of an Integrated Framework website for dissemination to a wider audience. Information received from other development partners as possible inputs for multi-year country programmes would be presented on the website under the heading "Communications/Information" from other development partners.

74. FAO, WIPO and UNIDO had indicated their interest in participating more actively in the Integrated Framework. The first meeting of the Steering Group of the common trust fund of the joint UNCTAD/WTO/ITC integrated technical assistance programme was held in April 1998, followed by two other meetings in June and November 1998. Under that programme, two joint field missions were undertaken in the seven sub-Saharan countries, during which country implementation plans were adopted in conjunction with the national steering committees, which act as counterparts of the three organizations with representatives from the private and public sectors and the donor community, including UNDP, the World Bank and bilateral donors for coordination purposes.

75. Major activities carried out also include consultations between WTO and customs administrations on the implementation of the Customs Valuation Agreement and other customs matters; a feasibility study for the establishment of a communication and discussion facility at Geneva that will be accessible to all countries in the joint programme through the Internet; the preparation of draft country reports for the main exported products for each country during the period 1993–1997, which were based on statistical analysis by the ITC Research and Analysis Unit, to prepare country matrices of exportable products and target markets; and the delivery of standard equipment and technical documentation to the National Standard Boards to help strengthen capacity for the operation of the National Enquiry Points. Of special note is the launching by UNCTAD of seven country-specific studies on the impact of the multilateral trading system aimed at assisting Governments to better understand the overall impact of the system on their respective countries and thus facilitate the adaptation of national policies to bring them into line with WTO agreements.

76. At a meeting convened by the Secretary-General in October 1998, the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development stressed the need to address the high tariffs and tariff escalation that continue to exist in certain sectors of interest to African countries, such as agricultural products, textile and clothing, and leather goods. The Panel also emphasized the importance of building supply capacity to take advantage of new and existing market opportunities and making Africa more competitive by, among other things, improving the quality of exports, upgrading infrastructure, especially transportation, and increasing marketing and packaging skills. The Panel agreed on the need for increased trade-related technical assistance in the framework of the joint UNCTAD/WTO/ITC integrated programme, the importance of economic diversification, and the need for improvement in regional and interregional trading systems. The Panel supported the establishment of regional projects to lower transaction costs and assist African countries to integrate into the global economy.

77. At a meeting of the Secretary-General with representatives of countries members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, held in September 1998 in follow-up to his 1998 report on Africa to the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/52/871–S/1998/318), participants supported the need for greater access to the markets of industrialized countries for African exports. Many participants noted that efforts had already been made to increase such access in the framework of WTO and the Lomé Convention. With regard to investment in Africa,

participants pointed to the need for African countries to create an enabling environment. It was also emphasized that there is a need to develop an integrated strategy aimed at ensuring that trade, investment and official development assistance work towards the same goals of poverty eradication and integration into the global economy. The essential elements of a strategy for economic diversification, drafted by UNCTAD, are set out in annex I to the present report.

I. Regional cooperation and integration

78. At its thirty-eighth session the Committee for Programme and Coordination renewed its recommendation that a programme be prepared on regional cooperation and integration (A/53/16, part one, para. 331). ECA already has a well developed programme in this area, and devotes the resources and efforts of one of its five substantive divisions, the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, to this work programme.

79. For the implementation of the regional cooperation and integration programme, ECA works in partnership with key regional actors in Africa, including regional and subregional organizations, as well as with other relevant actors within and outside the United Nations system. The work programme draws on the regional leadership mandate of ECA and offers a good foundation for the support of Special Initiative partners to the continent in this area.

80. The many regional institutions in Africa represent the building blocks for the continent's regional integration. Since regionalism has been recognized as imperative to Africa's participation in an increasingly globalized world, the importance of Africa's regional institutions in ensuring the very survival of the small African economies has increased. Prominent among those institutions are the subregional economic groupings established mainly to achieve economies of scale through the pooling of markets and production factors.

81. In May 1997, the ECA Conference of Ministers established, as a subsidiary organ of the Commission, the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, which assumed the technical tasks of the former Conference of African Ministers responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration and Tourism.

82. The Committee will facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices by the regional economic communities in a range of specific areas including (a) harmonization and rationalization of regional integration institutions; (b) convergence of micro and macroeconomic policies among countries: proposals for greater harmonization; (c) feasibility studies on the establishment of self-financing mechanisms for the regional economic communities; (d) compensation and equalization mechanisms for furthering the economic integration process; (e) analytical framework for the assessment of the costs and benefits of regional economic integration; (f) liberalization of world trade, globalization and Africa's regional integration process; (g) expanding intra-African trade through enhanced trade liberalization, factor mobility and convergence of complementarities; (h) impact of physical, tariff and non-tariff barriers on intra-Africa trade, factor mobility, and regional development patterns; (i) strengthening regional institutions through technical and advisory support. The first meeting of the Committee was held in Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 April 1999.

83. The subregional development centres play a pivotal role in rendering services more effectively to regional economic communities. The centres enable ECA to keep abreast of developments on the ground, enhancing the Commission's outreach. They also work with partners to identify priority areas of relevance to the subregion and provide technical support. They facilitate networking and information sharing and the dissemination of ECA policy recommendations and technical publications on regional cooperation and integration issues, and engage in advocacy and capacity-building through policy forums, seminars, training workshops, and advisory missions to the regional economic communities and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The reconstitution of ECA at subregional level, since the reform of the Commission's structure and programmes in 1996, has improved its capacity to support regional cooperation and integration efforts at the subregional level.

84. A major challenge for ECA is how to galvanize the United Nations system for coordinated support to rationalize and revitalize the overall institutional framework for economic integration and development in Africa. ECA believes that a holistic approach requires that the rationalization be extended beyond the regional economic communities to include the numerous African development institutions that can contribute to addressing the regional integration challenge of the continent. While the Abuja Treaty identifies five subregional groupings encompassing North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa, there is currently a plethora of regional economic groupings, with many African countries belonging to two or three of them. There is also a range of organizations sponsored by ECA, in collaboration with member States and OAU, the

objectives of which are to build capacity in strategic areas such as science and technology, remote sensing, engineering design and manufacturing. These objectives are fundamental to rationalizing the building blocks of regional cooperation and integration. A full detailed description of the ECA lead programme on regional cooperation and integration is given in annex II to the present report.

J. Increased resource mobilization

85. At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended intensified efforts to establish and implement a strategy for mobilization of resources, particularly through greater cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions (A/53/16, part one, para. 332).

86. In October 1998, UNDP, ECA and the World Bank held a brainstorming session to identify issues and key elements of a resource mobilization strategy. There will be further discussions at the forthcoming 8th meeting of the ACC Steering Committee. It is expected that this will lead the Special Initiative to devise an innovative resource mobilization strategy. During that session, it was noted that a core of best practices, emerging from the implementation of sectors such as education, health, governance and information technology, constitutes the basis for building a sustainable strategy that will be tested in other supported priority areas. Concrete resource mobilization strategies implemented for the health and education sectors aim to achieve the goals agreed on at earlier United Nations conferences.

87. Increased resource mobilization to meet the objectives of the Special Initiative is a shared responsibility and should be articulated around (a) a country focus demonstrating national ownership and leadership, consistent with national policies, strategies and programmes, reflecting consensus reached through consultations among a wide selection of stakeholders, involving external partners, and fully supported by the resident coordinator and the United Nations country team through a common country assessment and United Nations development assistance framework where such mechanisms are in place; (b) a cluster focus reflecting specific goals in keeping with the recommendations of major United Nations conferences, for example, universal primary education and health sector reform, and showing clear evidence of agreement reached among United Nations lead and cooperating agencies or organizations on the basis of cluster consultations; and (c) an inter-country focus facilitating the exchange of information on best practices with a view to addressing common policy impediments and assisting in replicating results.

88. The World Bank, as lead agency for the mobilization of resources, stresses the need to distinguish between (a) incremental support for objectives of the Special Initiative by way of mobilizing resources to address particular barriers to improving coverage, quality and use of targeted essential services such as multi-country health workshops and the World Bank's and Norway's $7 million trust funds to cover health and education and (b) the general mobilization of external resources (intellectual and financial) in favour of financially sustainable, technically sound and socially equitable programmes aimed at improving coverage, quality and use of targeted services, such as the sector-wide approach programmes in education and health in Ethiopia, amounting to $480 million and $320 million, respectively.

89. The International Monetary Fund provides financial assistance to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes through the Extended Fund Facility and standby arrangements. As of 19 February 1999, there were 26 arrangements (including 21 Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility arrangements) in place with sub-Saharan African countries, for a total commitment of SDR 2.22 billion; the undrawn balance totalled SDR 1.09 billion. Through its catalytic role, the Fund also assists African countries in mobilizing additional resources from bilateral and multilateral donors.

90. Given the crowding-out effect of debt servicing on the demand for basic social infrastructure, any resource mobilization strategy should go hand in hand with a substantial debt relief. To that end, IMF cooperation with the World Bank for the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, and the creation of a framework for collaborative action with other multilateral institutions and bilateral creditors to resolve external debt problems, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative is a step in the right direction. Five African countries, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda, were among the first to be considered for debt relief under the Debt Initiative and preliminary discussions have been held on extending it to three more sub-Saharan African countries. Further reforms of the Initiative aimed at providing more debt relief to more countries are under consideration.

91. Overall, an innovative resource mobilization strategy with the elements indicated above will make the added value of the Special Initiative more evident through developments at the country level, emphasizing national leadership in programme formulation and better coordination between the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods

institutions, and external partners, in support of national priorities. More effective delivery of aid, will undoubtedly improve the impact on development efforts, resulting in lowered transaction costs, increased resources and enhanced utilization of limited national capacities.

K. Other priority areas

1. Water

92. The importance of water in the context of socio-economic development in Africa is well recognized, for agriculture, industry, urban development, hydropower generation, inland fisheries, transportation, recreation, land management, sanitation and other activities. For a large percentage of the African population, water supplies are neither safe nor adequate. According to UNICEF, only 50 per cent of the total African population had access to safe water during the period 1990–1997.

93. A Water Working Group, chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, is the main vehicle for promoting partnership in this area. The Working Group includes 10 organizations (UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, World Meterological Organization (WMO), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), ECA, International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations University and World Bank) and focuses on implementation at the country level of the Africa region's water strategy. The implementation of this strategy is through three interrelated partnerships: (a) Water Resources Management Policy Reforms, which deals with the policy and regulatory questions of water management at national and international levels; (b) Community Water Supply and Sanitation, which focuses on rural poverty and peri-urban water services; and (c) the Small-Scale Irrigation and Water Utility Partnership, which supports small-scale irrigation in 15 African countries and urban water utility performance and reform, with private sector participation.

94. The Water Working Group has identified four countries, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda, and the Zambezi River Basin for a pilot study focusing on achieving the objectives of the Special Initiative. As an active member of the Working Group entrusted with water resource assessment, WMO has launched, with the support of the World Bank, the European Commission and the Government of France, a global programme for monitoring the hydrological cycle, the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System, which is intended to stimulate water resource assessment activities and capacity-building and strengthen basin-wide, regional and international cooperation in the field of integrated water resources management. In Africa, two projects are currently being implemented, one in the Mediterranean region with the participation of 3 African countries, and one in the southern Africa region with the participation of 11 countries, and others are planned.

95. The World Meterological Organization plans to organize regional workshops for national experts involved in water resource assessment, to introduce the WMO and UNESCO publication entitled *Water Resources Assessment: Handbook for Review of National Capabilities* and to train them in the use of the new methodology. The first workshop in this series was organized in Malawi in 1998 for the southern Africa subregion.

96. WMO has also been actively supporting the African countries in developing the capacities of the national meteorological and hydrological services to provide information and advisory services to the users, especially during the rainy seasons. At national level, several projects are being implemented in collaboration with UNDP and other partners. A UNDP/WMO project was implemented to enhance the preparation and application of climate products in eastern Africa. A project funded by Belgium also became operational in 1998 in support of the Harare Drought Monitoring Centre. Two drought monitoring centres, at Nairobi and Harare, are operational and are providing timely information and warnings on drought, forecasts of seasonal weather conditions and impact assessments on agricultural production and water resources to the countries in the subregion.

97. Recently, WMO initiated a hydrological data rescue project with a pilot study involving five African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda). The project should ensure the security of the historical hydrological data, which are essential for climate prediction and long-term planning of projects for sustainable water resource development and food security.

98. UNICEF supports programmes and technology development in the area of water and environmental sanitation, focusing especially on borehole development, hand pump operation and maintenance, community participation and low-cost sanitation promotion. Other areas of UNICEF action include increasing internal and external resources to water and environmental sanitation programmes at the country and regional level, advocating the commitment of higher resources to the sector, promoting subregional collaboration among countries and working to help reach the un-served by expanding coverage through participatory community-based approaches and supporting innovative financing mechanisms for sustainability and equity. UNICEF

continued in 1998 to strengthen the all-Africa professional working group on water supply and sanitation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. In November 1998, the working group launched in Abidjan the Water and Sanitation Africa Initiative.

2. Food security

99. The four priority areas of the food security working group under FAO responsibility are water for food production, soil quality improvement, food security with special emphasis on women, and land degradation and desertification control. Since December 1998 FAO has taken measures to encourage links between the Special Initiative and the ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security. These are (a) setting up a focal point at FAO headquarters for each priority area; (b) including the priority areas in the agenda of the ACC thematic groups and in the work plans of FAO programmes at the country level; (c) the development of five technical documents on the four priority areas to be sued as a basis for discussion and action by the thematic groups or technical working groups, from which a work plan and a common strategic framework for action are expected to emerge. In countries where the pilot phase of the United Nations development assistance framework is being implemented, the Special Initiative priorities are highlighted in the ACC thematic groups, which have evolved into the development assistance framework thematic groups.

100. Preliminary results are as follows: (a) in Kenya the development assistance framework thematic groups on food security and on natural resource management have discussed the four priority areas and how they would fit into the Special Initiative programme; (b) the first draft of the study on operationalization of the Special Initiative in Benin was discussed by the United Nations organization heads at a retreat in December 1998. The study identified 119 actions to be taken by various partners, including Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and bilateral donors; (c) the process of organizing thematic groups has begun in 7 of the 15 countries which were reported on. It was decided to link the ACC Network and the Special Initiative by focusing the capacities of the United Nations system and donors on food security. In five countries activities under the Special Initiative are being developed directly under the resident coordinators.

101. The four priority areas are fully developed within several FAO activities or programmes which already have an inter-agency focus, including the Special Programme for Food Security which is operational in 25 African countries, being formulated in 15 countries and yet to be formulated in another 4. The technical documents which were made available in the countries give the different programmes, methodologies, resources and support which can be provided through the FAO focal points. Some programmes already developed in some African countries are:

(a) Water for food production: International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development;

(b) Soil quality improvement: Soil Fertility Initiative for sub-Saharan Africa;

(c) Food security with special emphasis on women: Socio-economic and Gender Analysis Programme;

(d) Land degradation and desertification control: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; International Scheme for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands.

102. World Food Programme resources were directed to those responsible for household food security, traditionally women in most African countries. Emphasis has been placed on meeting women's needs through special gender activities for both development and relief projects in African countries. Currently about 100 development projects in the Africa region provide 20.6 million beneficiaries with 2.4 million tons of food, at a total value of approximately $1.5 billion.

103. WFP works closely with its African government counterparts to improve early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. WFP has also established vulnerability analysis and mapping units in regional and country offices in Africa, which assist in the identification of the food insecure and poor households, the causes of their vulnerability and their needs. The units play an important role in directing WFP disaster mitigation activities and targeting food assistance to the most vulnerable and food insecure beneficiaries.

3. Environment

104. For UNEP, an important avenue for coordination and joint action in the field of environment is through the Special Initiative. UNEP has concluded memoranda of understanding and agreements on bilateral cooperation with the United Nations system. Through these instruments it has been possible to map out collaborative efforts with UNIDO, on municipal waste management; UNDP, on strengthening African capacities in the development of legislative frameworks for environmental management; FAO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(UNITAR), on building awareness and capacities in African countries for sound management of chemicals, particularly persistent organic pollutants; UNESCO, on assisting countries to review existing conventions, agreements, protocols, action plans and programmes for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment; ECA, on building African capacity in environmental accounting; and with Habitat in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development as well as in the Urban Africa Water Project.

105. UNEP and UNDP have been collaborating in implementing projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in streamlining United Nations system programme coordination at the country level. UNEP participated actively in the country strategy notes exercise in many countries in Africa, providing comments and advice to enhance each country's programme, particularly to integrate environment and sustainable development into the agenda.

106. The Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean, a working group of the WMO Regional Association for Africa, continued to contribute to the goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Its activities include the promotion and improvement of tropical cyclone warning systems and related meteorological services, and efforts to minimize loss of life and damage due to tropical cyclones in the 13 members of WMO in south-eastern Africa which are affected by tropical cyclones. WMO continued to provide technical, scientific and financial support to the Committee. Special attention was given to putting research results to practical use.

107. The Public Weather Services Programme of WMO aims to assist members to build their capacity to provide effective weather services to the public in support of safety of life and protection of property, and as a contribution to WMO work towards achieving goals of the Decade. To this end training activities have been given special emphasis. Regional training seminars on the use of the Global Data Processing System and the World Area Forecast System and presentation of forecasts to the public were organized in Africa. Their purpose was to update and widen the knowledge of participants of meteorological numerical products to ensure their optimum application to aviation and to the provision of warnings and forecasts to the public.

4. Partnership with Africa through South-South cooperation

108. South-South cooperation provides opportunities for enhancing the capabilities of African countries in various sectors of development such as agriculture, industry and science and technology. Some activities have been undertaken by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and ECA.

109. The Office of the Special Coordinator and UNDP organized, with the Government of Japan and the Global Coalition for Africa, the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1998, with the aim of strengthening and expanding South-South cooperation. The Agenda for Action adopted by the Conference emphasized support for good governance and private sector development. As a follow-up to the Agenda for Action, UNDP and the Office of the Special Coordinator, in collaboration with the Governments of Japan and Malaysia, is organizing at Kuala Lumpur the Asia-Africa Business Forum and the third Asia-Africa Forum to seek ways and means of enhancing trade and investment cooperation. An Asia-Africa Investment and Technology Promotion Centre to attract more investment to Africa through Asian investment experience is to be established this year at Kuala Lumpur. Initially funded by Japan at a cost of $850,000, the Centre will be established by UNIDO, with additional funding of $300,000 a year from UNDP.

110. The Office of the Special Coordinator also organized, with the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Asia-Africa Forum on Export Promotion at Seoul in December 1998. The Forum was attended by 22 African countries and 9 Asian countries and United Nations organizations related to trade and investment. The Forum enabled representatives from African countries to adopt appropriate measures for export promotion and to inform the private sector and investors from Asian countries about trade and investment opportunities in Africa, including joint ventures. It provided an opportunity for institutional networking for African and Asian countries with a view to building African capacity for export promotion and enhancing know-how in African countries on such important issues as quality improvement, standardization and packaging.

III. Implementation of the Special Initiative: coordination at the country, subregional and regional levels

111. The need for enhanced collaboration and coordination is particularly compelling in Africa, where the activities of the United Nations organizations have expanded significantly at the national and regional levels in recent

years. This expansion has led African Governments to show much interest in comprehending the overall pattern of interaction among the organizations at the national, subregional and regional levels.

At the country level

112. The United Nations system has taken various initiatives aimed at enhancing coordination among its organizations at the country level and promoting synergistic actions. The resident coordinator system plays a critical role in this effort, especially in harmonizing programmatic action and creating the necessary interface among various instruments such as the common country assessment, the country cooperation framework, the United Nations development assistance frameworks, the World Bank's country assessment strategy and, more recently, the comprehensive development framework. The country team retreats held in many countries in the context of the Special Initiative have proved helpful.

113. Progress has been registered in coordination at the country level, particularly in Special Initiative clusters where lead agencies have been proactive in stimulating implementation. That is the case in education, with UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP; population with UNFPA; and trade with UNCTAD which, in collaboration with WTO and ITC, has developed an integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance for least developed and other African countries. UNCTAD is also cooperating with UNDP in assisting African countries in trade promotion and negotiations. Similarly ILO, in cooperation with ECA, is taking the lead in poverty reduction through the promotion of the informal sector and employment generation. In addition, UNDP and ECA have initiated an annual Africa Governance Forum series which provides a platform for representatives of Governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations and their external partners to exchange information on the state of governance in Africa. As an integral part of that process the joint UNDP/Department of Economic and Social Affairs comprehensive databases and analyses of governance activities are expected to enhance the in-country capacity for coordination and lead to sustainability.

At the subregional and regional levels

114. The Special Initiative is helping to create necessary interface between the work of the United Nations system and other initiatives on Africa such as the Second Tokyo Conference. Through activities such as the Africa Governance Forum and subregional meetings on health and education, it offers a platform for the exchange of experiences, leading to replication of best practices and awareness for better coordination of donor assistance.

115. The Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning at its first meeting, held at Addis Ababa in April 1998, requested ECA to prepare a report on coordination and collaboration among United Nations organizations operating at the subregional and regional levels in Africa, to be submitted to the Conference at its 1999 session. In its preliminary report, ECA indicates several trends and factors providing for greater collaboration and coordination. First, several issues on the development agenda have cross-border dimensions and increasingly demand subregional or regional approaches. Secondly, donors are increasingly and insistently demanding greater collaboration and coordination as means of demonstrating the effectiveness of aid resources, whether such resources are devoted to national, subregional or regional programmes. Thirdly, as more and more United Nations organizations decentralize their activities to the subregional and regional levels, enhanced coordination and collaboration will be crucial for avoiding duplication, minimizing overlap and reinforcing synergies, thus increasing the impact of the collective effort. Lastly, member States in the region are as keen to monitor progress in the implementation of programmes of the agencies at subregional and regional levels as they are to have ownership of programmes at the national level.

116. At the subregional level, the development centres of ECA aim to foster cooperation and integration between member States and the intergovernmental organizations. However, their efforts are limited because of the virtual absence of a general coordinating mechanism that would allow agencies to interact on a periodic and sustained basis and take a long-term view of issues in the region. Fostering coordination and collaboration at the subregional level is a major challenge for United Nations agencies in Africa. The case for programmatic coordination is strongest in areas where cross-border effects are very significant, such as transportation, some health and social issues, and trade and regional integration issues. Actions that would improve cooperation at the subregional level include the preparation of a detailed inventory of the nature and scope of subregional inter-country programmes of United Nations agencies in Africa; a comprehensive assessment of complementarities in programme activities, to identify opportunities for

collaboration; and the setting up of a mechanism for improved coordination at the subregional level in support of collaborative efforts.

117. The first annual regional coordination meeting of the United Nations system in Africa, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and attended by representatives of 23 organizations, was held in March 1999 at Nairobi. The meeting was called in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 to discuss enhanced coordination of the activities of the system at the regional level and ascertain whether there was adequate coordination among organizations on African issues. The participants considered that, despite some coordination, their collective efforts on the whole were not coherent and that the existing coordination mechanisms were not effective. They underscored the need for better coherence and synergy in the work of the United Nations organizations at the regional level. They also observed that coordination at the subregional level was weak and that appropriate mechanisms and measures would need to be put in place at that level for effective coordination and coherence, which they viewed as critical in the context of a move towards regional cooperation and economic integration in Africa.

118. The regional meeting agreed that (a) the Special Initiative could provisionally constitute an appropriate coordinating mechanism for the work of the United Nations system in Africa; this would require a review of the scope of the Special Initiative in terms of the priorities covered, and if necessary augmenting it by adjusting the clusters to cover the main areas of the United Nations activities; (b) goals should be established and priorities identified to create a common development vision for implementing national priorities; (c) a mechanism should be developed for monitoring performance to assess the extent to which specified goals have been achieved; (d) the two chairmen of the ACC Steering Committee should prepare a proposal on modified clusters under the Special Initiative to include the work of the main United Nations organizations. Work is under way to submit this proposal within the requested time of three months from the holding of the meeting.

IV. Measures taken in response to recommendations of the Committee at its thirty-eighth session

119. Since the launching of the Special Initiative, the organizations of the United Nations system have made efforts to collaborate on a range of areas and thematic issues. As the implementation of the Initiative has made significant progress in a number of priority areas, there is a need to enhance subregional, regional and global collaboration and coordination. This, in turn, will accelerate the implementation of Special Initiative programmes that are lagging behind and facilitate the monitoring of overall progress and reporting to the intergovernmental bodies.

120. Since the consideration of the implementation of the Special Initiative by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session, the Secretary-General has reiterated his commitment to the Initiative in an open statement circulated system-wide and within the donor community. He has called for the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to work with the singular purpose of maximizing the impact of their combined support for Africa's own development. The ACC Steering Committee has met several times to intensify the implementation of the Initiative. At the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee, progress on clusters such as governance, education, health, poverty eradication and trade will be reviewed and guidance provided to accelerate overall implementation, including specific actions to increase resource mobilization.

121. With respect to the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and the secretariat of the Special Initiative have jointly prepared a matrix showing the recommendations of the Committee, suggested actions and the organizations responsible for taking such actions, which was forwarded to all Special Initiative focal points for action (see annex III to the present report).

122. The Committee at its thirty-eighth session recommended that performance indicators be developed to monitor achievements in the priority areas of the Special Initiative. The Office of the Special Coordinator, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Special Initiative and with the technical support of the Statistics Division and the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has established a draft list of selected performance indicators that can be used to that effect, which is reproduced in annex IV to the present report for the consideration of the Committee. In selecting the performance indicators, the Office has benefited from inputs and comments from ECA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNEP and UNIDO.

123. The areas covered for the selection of indicators are governance, information technology for development, education, health, population and gender, regional

cooperation and integration, resource mobilization, water, food security, poverty and debt. The data will be collected by the lead agencies for the countries specified in the respective programmes. The statistical sources for the indicators will be the United Nations organizations shown in annex IV. The starting year for tracking progress will be 1994, which is two years before the launching of the Special Initiative. It should be noted, however, that movements in most of those indicators are not likely to be significant in a short period of time, so that additional criteria or benchmarks for tracking yearly progress in the implementation of priority areas may need to be identified by the lead agencies.

124. With respect to the Committee's recommendation that lead agencies develop, in their respective areas, a common strategic framework for action, it should be noted that there has been considerable improvement in cooperation in the clusters established for priority areas. This is notably the case in the areas of governance, information technology for development, education, health, water and population and gender. Though formal implementation strategies are yet to be developed, activities in those areas are proceeding as shown in section II of the present report.

125. The Committee called for the strengthening of the secretariat of the Special Initiative. It should be noted that, as a first step, Special Initiative focal points in the various United Nations organizations have been strengthened. Collaboration between the secretariat and the Office of the Special Coordinator has been enhanced with the establishment of working arrangements. The secretariat and the Office have agreed to jointly prepare progress reports to the intergovernmental bodies on the Special Initiative and the New Agenda, to exchange information and programmes of work and to hold joint meetings.

126. In the internal organizational arrangements of the Office of the Special Coordinator, a Special Initiative cluster has been set up with the specific task of fully integrating Special Initiative activities into the operational content of the New Agenda, the follow-up to the Secretary-General's report on Africa (A/52/871–S/1998/318), and the Agenda for Action adopted by the Second Tokyo Conference, for which UNDP and the Office of the Special Coordinator are responsible. As reported previously to the Committee, the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development has been phased out and superseded by the ACC Steering Committee at a higher level. A Special Initiative unit has been established at ECA within the office of the Executive Secretary and is being reinforced.

127. In the context of the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, and in the light of the revision of programme 6 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, the role of the Office of the Special Coordinator has been clarified and reinforced. Its primary focus is advocacy for African development, substantive support for the global political processes on Africa and catalytic activities. The Office is also called to backstop the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General in specific areas as may be required. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who is also the convener of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, has been particularly keen on ensuring that overlapping and duplication with ECA are avoided. He has also, at the senior level, clarified the relationship between the Special Initiative and the New Agenda in line with the recommendation made by the Committee at its thirty-seventh session.

128. The issue of intensified efforts to establish a vigorous plan of increased mobilization of resources as recommended by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session is a subject of particular attention within the United Nations system. The next meeting of the ACC Steering Committee will report on specific action on resource mobilization (see sect. II.J above). In addition, it should be noted that in follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on Africa (A/52/871–S/1998/318), and as part of his global advocacy for African development, the Secretary-General met in September 1998 with the Foreign Ministers of the countries members of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD to underscore the need for increased financial support to African countries to accelerate development. The Secretary-General stressed five key issues on which he expected significant progress from donor countries, namely, increased official development assistance; improvement of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative; further debt relief; foreign direct investment; and access to markets. The reaction from the Development Assistance Committee countries was more than encouraging. A similar meeting may be held in the autumn of 1999.

129. Finally, it should be recalled that when the Committee for Programme and Coordination adopted in 1991 for the first time the programme entitled "Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development" (programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992–1997), it clearly stated in the overall strategy of the programme that the system-wide plan of action that, at its thirtieth session, it had requested the Secretary-General to prepare, would form, once adopted, the basis for system-wide coordination during the period covered by the medium-term plan.[2]

130. The System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, adopted in 1992 and revised in 1994, was replaced by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-seventh session by the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa. The direct implication of the replacement was that the latter inherited the main characteristic of the former, namely, to serve as an instrument of coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in Africa. Four years after its launching, the Special Initiative is now recognized as an appropriate mechanism for the coordination of United Nations programmes on Africa. In the light of the Nairobi meeting of March 1999 (see para. 118 above), it would be necessary, if the Special Initiative is to fully play its role of coordinating mechanism, to review the existing priority areas and to include other new areas and resources. The Committee may wish to explore ways and means of enhancing the coordinating functions of the Special Initiative.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16.*

[2] Ibid., *Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I, major programme III, para. 45.14.

Annex I

Programme for economic diversification in Africa

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The success of economic diversification in Africa requires a carefully designed strategy involving the understanding of the potential that exists; the identification of priority bottlenecks that need to be tackled; and the preparation of a programme that deals with those bottlenecks with the appropriate sequencing and focus. Financing of diversification is of paramount importance and can yield positive results if there is a solid foundation for the use of the funds. The present note outlines the essential elements of a strategy for diversification by African countries with the support of the international community in the light of those considerations.

I. The setting

2. Although some individual success stories of vertical and horizontal diversification can be cited, most African economies depend on a small number of agricultural or mineral primary commodities, often exported in unprocessed forms, for the bulk of their foreign exchange earnings. These commodities, in general, face the well-known problems of relatively slow growth in demand, intense competition from efficient (or subsidized) suppliers, declining and highly fluctuating prices on world markets and, particularly in recent years, increasing concentration on the buying side while the exporting countries liberalize their trading system. Under these circumstances, unless conscious efforts are made by commodity-dependent African countries, supported by the international community, it will be impossible for the commodity sector to fulfil its role of generating the foreign exchange earnings and domestic savings necessary for the development and transformation of these economies. Both the Government and the enterprise sector have a part to play in these efforts, and civil society and institutions have a crucial facilitating role.[a]

3. Diversification is not an end in itself, but rather a means towards development. In view of the crucial need to ensure that diversification goes in tandem with development objectives and poverty alleviation, policies and measures must identify, at the sectoral level, the benefits of alternative diversification scenarios in terms of the potential retained value added and the generation of positive linkages. The consistency of policies and measures at the macro-sectoral and micro levels as well as transparency and cooperation between the government and the private sector in policy making are important elements of success.

4. The basis on which government policies need to be designed, and their nature, depend on the overall development aspirations and programme of each country. With globalization and liberalization, world markets for commodities are being reshaped and becoming more complex. This not only requires that enterprises revise their business strategies but also has an impact on government policies. To integrate effectively into, and benefit fully from, a liberalized world trading system, commodity-dependent countries that are on the verge of marginalization need to look beyond the elimination of trade barriers in their export markets. They have to close the "connectivity gap" and improve their supply capacities as well as the timeliness and flexibility of their response to new and emerging market opportunities.

5. The first prerequisite for a diversification strategy at the country level is the existence of a supportive macroeconomic environment as well as overcoming infrastructural problems such as transportation, storage and other logistical barriers. The present note, however, does not go into a discussion of these crucial aspects, but focuses on what needs to be done on the sectoral level. African Governments need to identify the broad areas where the country's comparative advantage lies, given its economic base, and to design and implement the appropriate policies and measures that will support and provide an enabling environment for the enterprise sector. The entrepreneurs, in turn, will have to identify the actual opportunities that exist for diversification and export success, evaluate these opportunities and adopt the requisite strategies for benefiting from them. What follows is a strategy in this context.

II. The approach

6. The approach outlined in this note is limited to the objective of increasing retained value added from the production and export of commodities. In the light of a world market situation where there are ample supplies of most traditional commodities, the emphasis needs to be put on further processing of commodities (vertical diversification) and entry into high value-added quality products (horizontal diversification).

A. Sectoral background preparation

7. As an initial step for the diversification of African economies, a series of sectoral profiles should be prepared. These profiles, focusing on products of interest to those countries, would identify (a) supply conditions for raw materials, namely, quality and standards, quantity/critical size, cost/productivity, continuity, organization of production and trade, plant/animal health conditions, comparison of investment conditions and costs with other producer countries; (b) major foreign markets for processed products, their growth of demand and market access conditions; (c) prices and trends, qualities and standards requirements for processed products; (d) market structures, marketing requirements, major competitors and firms engaged in global production and trading; (e) production requirements, including skills, technologies, capital, machinery and possible sources, required supplies of utilities, operating and financing conditions in the producer country; typical examples of production cost/size of capacity; investment cost/capacity; (f) potential partners, including information sources regarding potential partners, match-making facilities, subcontracting networks and financing institutions; and (g) possible sources of technical and financial assistance, and specialized consultants for upgrading domestic producers, their products and technologies.

8. Such an analysis will also determine where and why high profits occur (for example, because of monopolistic market structures, or locational factors, or for technological reasons) so that a realistic assessment can be made of the possibility for entering those areas and capturing the high value added by the producer countries.

9. Given the complexity of the issues and the fact that those profiles would be used by several countries, their preparation would be best coordinated and supervised by an international organization.

B. Preparatory work by African Governments

10. African Governments, as a first step, should undertake an assessment of the country's physical and human resource base as well as its actual and potential supply capacity. This will give an indication of the sectors on which the country would concentrate.

11. On this basis, and in the light of world commodity chains for each of those sectors as provided in the profiles described above, there is a need to assess the expected retained value added from expanded production and international trade, as well as the direct and indirect benefits expected. The purpose is to identify the best entry point into the global production and commodity chain.

12. There is also a need to understand the significance of sectoral entry barriers of both international and domestic origin, and how these barriers can be overcome. Some of the barriers which are expected to be found significant are domestic and international market structures; costs, including costs of imported inputs and transportation costs; skill requirements for quality control establishment of marketing channels, in particular for non-traditional products; efficiency in the discharge of governmental regulatory and fiscal responsibilities; legal and institutional aspects such as those that limit foreign investment or access to credit; and the organization of export-oriented firms.

13. This will lead to the design of policy packages aimed at increasing physical and human capacities, taking into account the administrative requirements of such packages, sustainability concerns related to expanded production, the social and human context of polices related to international trade, and complementary measures. The generation and optimal use of domestic finance for commodity-based development will also be part of these packages.

14. Even before detailed assessment of needs, however, it is clear that certain areas, in particular access to, and utilization of, information by enterprises, including information on requirements in terms of quality, necessitate immediate action.

C. Follow-up

15. The initial phase will lead to the preparation of country/sector-specific projects in interested countries covering the improvement of supply capacity, including for marketing and quality amelioration, as well as training, particularly for quality production, improving technological sophistication, and following market development. It should be emphasized that the goal is not for governments to "pick winners" but to increase the capacity of enterprises to succeed in entering new areas, and to improve the effectiveness of the institutions in assisting them to do so. Given earlier experiences with international initiatives regarding African diversification, it can be expected that this approach and the preparatory phase will provide a better and more substantive base for the generation of financial and technical support, and equip the entrepreneurs in closing the connectivity gap that exists between them and the world markets. Involvement of the donor community in the preparatory phase will give this initiative a further impetus.

III. Support by the international community

16. Organizations of the United Nations system such as UNDP, ITC, FAO, UNIDO, the World Bank, UNCTAD and WTO would need to assume important responsibilities in their specific fields of competence under a well-prepared and coordinated programme for African economic diversification. If sufficient resources were to be made available, UNCTAD could take responsibility as a lead agency for organizing and undertaking the background preparations in coordination and close collaboration with the other organizations. Follow-up would need to be undertaken at the country level. UNCTAD has the overall mandate to contribute to the development and diversification of developing countries which are heavily dependent on commodity exports and which face special challenges in promoting their trade and economic development. However, undertaking country/sector-specific programmes in diversification will require substantial additional resources which are not available to UNCTAD.

Notes

[a] UNCTAD, "Diversification in commodity-dependent countries: The role of Governments, enterprises and institutions" (TD/B/COM.1/12), 5 September 1997.

Annex II

Programme on regional cooperation and integration: scope and content

Note by the Economic Commission for Africa

1. With regionalism recognized as imperative to Africa's participation in an increasingly globalized world, the importance of Africa's regional institutions to regional economic integration has now increased.

2. The Economic Commission for Africa undertakes policy studies to support the process of economic integration as called for in the Abuja Treaty. The studies identify and analyse factors affecting integration, including conditions that constrain or facilitate the process, so as to help member States articulate strategies and implement policies to advance the process at the country, subregional, and regional levels. The subjects include:

Harmonization and rationalization of regional integration institutions: a gradual approach

3. The overlap of regional economic communities operating within the same subregional spaces in Africa is one of the key problems undermining the cohesiveness and unity of purpose and action in the integration process. Experience has shown that merging one regional economic community with another or closing down one in favour of another is politically sensitive and difficult to implement in the absence of political convergence on the issue. A pragmatic approach to the issue might be the gradual harmonization of the communities' market liberalization instruments. This would be achieved by removing contradictions and incompatibilities among them. That approach underlies the study, which is designed to identify and recommend measures to enhance cohesiveness and minimize fragmentation of market and economic space, and enhance the free circulation of people, goods and services within the same subregion.

Convergence of micro and macroeconomic policies among countries: proposals on an institutional framework for greater harmonization

4. National structural adjustment programmes were designed to help a number of countries in Africa restore equilibrium in their economies. Those countries tended to pay little or no attention to the regional dimension to national policies. The study demonstrated the negative consequences of policies of member countries within integration groupings that are neither coordinated with one another nor attuned to the agreed common objectives. It recommended promoting broad policy coordination and convergence, so as to ensure cohesiveness and unity of purpose of the African integration process.

Feasibility studies on the establishment of self-financing mechanisms for the regional economic communities

5. Ensuring the African integration process entails costs. The European Union would not have advanced as it did without innovative, adequate and sustained financing through various mechanisms, including selective taxes. African regional economic communities today basically depend on inadequate and unreliable financial subscriptions from the over-stretched coffers of their constituent countries. The studies were designed to identify sources and mechanisms to ensure that future financing of Africa's integration process is reliable — predominantly tax-based and minimally inflationary. In addition to sustaining the secretariats of the communities, the sources identified can contribute to funding existing and potential integration programmes and projects. The study for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has been completed, while that for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is ongoing. Eventually all regional economic communities will be covered.

Compensation and equalization mechanisms for furthering the economic integration process (case studies)

6. As a result of the tariff reduction plans associated with economic liberalization, the revenue base of many of the countries, which is necessary for financing critical public expenditures, will be eroded. This in the past has contributed to the reluctance of some countries to implement trade liberalization programmes. The study addresses the problem of revenue losses and uneven gains stemming from the implementation of trade liberalization schemes by member States. It develops options for compensation and mechanisms for revenue and loss equalization. The ultimate objective is to assess the feasibility of equalization funds for financing development projects, particularly infrastructure

in the least developed countries of the regional economic communities, in order to enhance their participation in these groupings. The study, which has been completed for COMESA, will be replicated for the rest of the regional economic communities.

Analytical framework for the assessment of the costs and benefits of regional economic integration

7. A clear knowledge of the costs and benefits of belonging to a regional grouping is essential to strong commitment by member countries of various regional economic communities. Transparency in the relative gains and losses of the members will facilitate rapid progress. Subregional case studies will examine measures that could be considered within the framework of national and regional policies to minimize costs and maximize equitably distributed benefits. An ECA workshop on economic integration cost benefit analysis was held from 28 to 30 October 1998, to familiarize participants with the techniques for analysing related issues and their policy implications. A pilot study has commenced in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) with Burkina Faso as the first country case. Other countries within WAEMU will eventually be covered in the first phase. Subsequently the studies will cover countries in other regional economic communities. The results of the studies will form the basis for the contemplated equalization/ compensation programmes.

Liberalization of world trade, globalization and Africa's regional integration process

8. Given that most African countries are members of the WTO, and that all are expected to be members soon, Africa's integration process has to take account of the requirements of the global trading system, particularly as stipulated in article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, governing regional integration arrangements. The purpose of these studies is to prepare African countries for compliance with WTO provisions while they continue to pursue their regional integration objectives and attune the process to the WTO provisions. The studies also tie in with the assistance programmes for ECA member countries, including training to better understand the WTO framework and its requirements. Besides providing inputs into the training programme, the studies result in policy briefs aimed at providing information on the world trading system that are of particular interest to Africa. Two issues of the policy briefs have been published so far, on Africa's regional integration and the multilateral trading system, and on globalization and liberalization of markets: prospects for African products. Two others are forthcoming, on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and on the telecommunication and financial services sector of GATS.

Expanding intra-Africa trade through enhanced trade liberalization, factor mobility and convergence of complementarities

9. Using eastern and southern Africa as a case, an empirical pilot study was carried out to establish the key factors determining the pace of effective implementation of trade liberalization within the subregion. On the basis of the subregion's natural resource endowments, measures were suggested to remove the obstacles to the greater interdependence of production and other economic activities. The ultimate objective is to improve the competitiveness of the productive sector and increase subregional trade.

The impact of physical tariff and non-tariff barriers on intra-Africa trade, factor mobility and regional development patterns

10. Efficiently operating national and regional transport and communication systems are crucial to promoting trade and investment in Africa through reductions in the prevailing high transport costs to improve Africa's competitiveness. At the April 1999 meeting of the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, a paper entitled "Transport and communications programmes of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): progress and difficulties" was discussed. In it ECOWAS, which has one of the more developed and integrated transport networks, shares its experience with other regional economic communities. SADC will share its successful power pooling experience.

Strengthening regional institutions through technical and advisory support

11. The ECA also carries out analyses of the institutional strengths and weaknesses of the secretariats of the subregional economic communities, and provides technical and policy advice, enhancing the capacity of the economic groupings to anticipate and manage the challenges of integration. In the last two years, the ECA has provided technical support to the secretariats of four key subregional economic communities, namely, COMESA, ECOWAS, including the ECOWAS Fund, and SADC. ECA, through the Central Africa subregional development centre, is spearheading the effort to relaunch and revitalize the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

12. *COMESA*. An ECA mission carried out a critical assessment of the secretariat structure of COMESA, taking into account the immediate and long-term expectations of the Common Market's major stakeholders. At the end of the in-depth review of objectives, structure and processes, the ECA mission proposed an organizational structure capable of fulfilling a new strategic mission. The ECA proposal was subsequently approved by the COMESA Council of Ministers at its meeting in November 1997.

13. *ECOWAS*. An ECA mission responded to a request to carry out a critical and comprehensive review of the mandate, structure and functions of the ECOWAS secretariat. Among the notable features of the ECA restructuring formula for the ECOWAS secretariat and the Fund is the reconstitution of the sectoral and highly fragmented units into coherent multidisciplinary teams. The Commission also conducted job evaluation studies to generate the information needed in reclassifying professional-level positions in the ECOWAS secretariat and the ECOWAS Fund. The grading structure was rationalized and simplified. New performance management strategies and innovative resource mobilization options were articulated.

14. *SADC*. ECA submitted a proposal to establish a policy analysis and coordination unit. This proposal was based on an analysis of the role of institutions within SADC. The proposal defined the rationale and options for establishing a policy analysis unit within the secretariat, the structure and location of the unit, and its operational modalities, including modalities for constituting and making optimum use of teams, as well as the preconditions for the successful take-off of the unit.

15. The ECA plan for the next biennium includes following up the implementation of the restructuring and reorganization proposals, and collaborating with the secretariats of the economic communities on performance improvements and capacity-building projects. Resources will also be earmarked for completion of the job evaluation studies still outstanding at COMESA, the ECOWAS secretariat, and the ECOWAS Fund.

16. *Rationalizing ECA-sponsored institutions*. At the session of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, held from 5 to 8 May 1997, Ministers considered a report on the rationalization of ECA-sponsored institutions: renewal for improved service, which included an assessment of the capacities of those institutions in the context of ECA's new strategic direction and their ability to enhance the Commission's impact in the selected priority areas in which ECA has comparative advantage. Following the conference discussions and recommendations, ECA is currently redefining its relationship with these institutions on the basis of their functionality; the relevance of their programmes to ECA's new strategic orientations; and the support given to the institutions by their Member States.

17. The ultimate objective of this exercise is to transform and strengthen the most effective institutions into regional centres of excellence. This category is likely to include the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys, the African Regional Organization for Standardization, and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development. ECA works in close partnership with these centres in delivering policy and advisory services to member States in highly technical areas. The work of ECA with the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development is illustrative of its work in this regard.

Annex III

Matrix of recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-eighth session and suggested follow-up

To be jointly monitored by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and Special Initiative

Recommendations	*Suggested actions*	*Organizations*
1. The Committee considered that the results so far achieved were interesting and constituted some progress compared with the previous situation. They were nonetheless insufficient as regards the number of countries and the limited areas covered so far.	Organize a technical working group and accelerate the implementation of education action plans for the 16 low primary enrolment countries and report on concrete results.	World Bank/UNESCO/ UNICEF
	Monitor implementation of follow-up activities to the Africa Governance Forums in the 24 participating countries and report on the results.	UNDP/ECA
	Organize a technical working group and accelerate the formulation and implementation of action plans for health sector reform for better health services in 15 countries.	WHO/World Bank/UNICEF/ UNDP
	Monitor and report on activities in other priority areas and in as many countries as possible:	Special Initiative/UNDP/ resident coordinator
	– Check with the resident representative on the implementation of Special Initiative components of their compact;	Special Initiative/UNDP/ resident coordinator
	– Check with the resident representative/resident coordinator on activities undertaken in the framework of the implementation of their Special Initiative retreat action plans (Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Togo);	Special Initiative/UNDP/ resident coordinator
	– Get continuous up-to-date information on cluster activities.	Special Initiative/United Nations system cluster focal points
	Prepare a matrix on ongoing Special Initiative-related activities at country level.	Special Initiative
	Organize Special Initiative country retreats in other countries.	Special Initiative/resident coordinator/UNDP
2 The Administrative Committee on Coordination be requested to intensify efforts to mobilize fully the analytical capacities and capabilities of the United Nations system at the service of the Special Initiative, in order to achieve coverage of the maximum number of countries and areas of activity.	Draw the attention of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the two Chairmen of the ACC Steering Committee to this recommendation	Special Initiative/Office of the Special Coordinator

Recommendations	*Suggested actions*	*Organizations*
3. The different lead agencies should be called upon, under the coordination of the ACC Steering Committee, to develop in their respective areas a common strategic framework for action that analyses and highlights problems, sets goals, determines the respective contributions of organizations, indicates necessary resources and sets reference points including performance indicators.	Formulation and implementation of common strategic frameworks for action in the different clusters, with emphasis on contents, in terms of the elements mentioned by the Committee.	Lead agencies
	Include in the terms of reference of upcoming technical working group (trade, poverty, education, health, water, resource mobilization) where appropriate a review, update or formulation of a common strategic framework for action.	Lead agencies
	Review the status of preparation and implementation of the common strategic frameworks.	Special Initiative/Office of the Special Coordinator
4. Rapid preparation of programmes in the two areas of regional cooperation and integration and economic diversification.	Identification of cooperating agencies which constitute the clusters.	Office of the Special Coordinator/ Special Initiative
	Organization of a technical working group to work out formulation and implementation arrangements.	Lead agencies
	Review of the effectiveness of resource mobilization strategy.	Office of the Special Coordinator/ Special Initiative
5. Strengthen the Special Initiative secretariat by:	Agreement on working arrangements.	}
(a) Tightening its working relationship with the Office of the Special Coordinator;	Identification of areas of joint activities.	} Office of the Special
	Preparation and implementation of a joint work programme.	} Coordinator/Special Initiative
	Joint preparation of appropriate reports.	}
(b) Tightening its working relationship with the substantive division of ECA;	Through the two Chairmen, associate ECA with technical working group meetings and UNDP cluster arrangements.	Special Initiative
(c) Tightening its working relationship with the focal points of organizations and agencies, including the Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa's Economic Recovery and Development;	Update list of focal points.	Special Initiative
	Organize technical working groups.	}
	Elaborate a strategy for rationalization.	} Special Initiative/agency focal } points
	Strengthen information flow.	}
(d) Allocating to it the necessary resources.	Explore cost-sharing arrangements within the United Nations system and with donors.	Office of the Special Coordinator/ Special Initiative/ECA

Recommendations	*Suggested actions*	*Organizations*
6. In the area of coordination, efforts should be intensified in particular as regards:		
(a) The orientation and advocacy role of the Secretary-General, the follow-up and the catalytic role of the Office of the Special Coordinator, and the operational role of UNDP and ECA;	Prepare periodic briefs and recommendations for the Secretary-General and the Executive Committees.	Office of the Special Coordinator/ Special Initiative
(b) Further coordination measures aimed at establishing a dynamic and common framework of action at the field level.	Implementation of a common strategic framework for individual priorities.	Lead agencies/clusters
	Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams and government to promote country strategy notes, common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks.	Resident coordinator/UNDP/United Nations Development Group
7. Intensify effort to establish and implement a strategy for mobilization of resources with a greater involvement of the Bretton Woods institutions.	Organize a technical working group on resource mobilization.	Special Initiative
	Agree on essential elements of a resource mobilization strategy.	World Bank/ECA/UNDP
	Formulate an overall resource mobilization strategy.	UNDP/World Bank/ECA
	Constitute a cluster for resource mobilization.	Lead agencies

Annex IV

Proposed performance indicators to monitor the achievement of the objectives of the priority areas of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa

Governance

Objective: To promote good governance

Indicators

(a) Peace-building and reconciliation

- Number of incidents of citizens protests and civil unrest involving violence;
- Number of uses of mechanism for non-violent conflict resolution (courts, alternative dispute resolution, indigenous mechanisms);
- Comprehensiveness of coverage of issues by these mechanisms;

(b) State/civil society interactions

- Number, types and extent of policy dialogues, public hearings, referenda, elections (local and national), public/private partnerships, minority and other commissions established;
- Importance of issues included in dialogues;

(c) Public service development and management

- Percentage of budget spent on performance improvement activities;
- Measuring of organizational modernization to meet future needs;
- Extent of multi-cultural policies and policy orientation;

(d) Rule of law and justice system

- Number of laws in essential areas of development policy passed and enforced;
- Number and effectiveness of mechanisms set up to enforce the rule of law (formally and informally, i.e., frequency of government gazette publication, number of cases adjudicated, average days in detention before trial, number of citizen complaints and actions taken);

(e) Civic organization infrastructure

- Number, diversity, size and influence of civil society organizations;
- Transparency and ease of government registration process.

Sources

For all the sources listed above, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Division for Public Economics and Public Administration, Governance and Public Administration Branch) to be requested to make the assessment in consultation with the resident coordinators.

Information technology for development

Objective: To promote information flow

Indicators

(a) Net-density: number of users of Internet per 10,000

(b) Number of websites

Sources

ECA

Education

Objective: Basic education for all African children

Indicators

(a) National literacy rate

(b) Annual enrolment rate of elementary/secondary school (by sex) in urban and rural sectors

(c) Annual enrolment rate of secondary school (by sex) in urban and rural sectors

(d) Proportion of children entering first grade of primary school who eventually reach grade 5

(e) Annual data of government expenditure to education sector

(f) Annual data of aid flow to education sector

(g) Proportion of learning achievement in literacy, numeracy and life skills

(h) Percentage of primary school teachers who are certified to teach according to national standards

(i) Literacy rate of 15–24 year olds

(j) Adult literacy rate: percentage of the population aged 15 and over that is literate

(k) Literacy gender parity index: ratio of female to male literacy rates

Sources

UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank and OECD/Development Assistance Committee

Health

Objective: To promote health sector improvement

Indicators

(a) Percentage of population with access to primary health care services

(b) HIV adult prevalence rate

(c) HIV pre-natal rate

(d) Life expectancy (by sex) at birth

(e) Infant mortality rate

(f) Under-five mortality rate

(g) Maternal mortality rate

(h) Percentage of births attended by trained health

Sources

World Bank, UNICEF and WHO

Population and gender

Objective: Gender equality and women's empowerment

Indicators

(a) Existence of an affirmative action policy to promote gender equality

(b) Signing, ratification and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

(c) Existence of a formal national population policy in line with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

(d) Existence of a health policy that considers reproductive health as in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

(e) Existence of legislation about minimum age at marriage

(f) Existence of national strategy for information, education, communication in support of reproductive health/family planning programme;

(g) Percentage of students having received population education/family life education in a specified period

(h) Prevalence of HIV seropositivity among pregnant women 15–24

(i) Percentage of births attended by skilled health professionals (excluding traditional birth attendants)

(j) Contraceptive prevalence rate

(k) Percentage of population with access to primary health-care services

(l) Infant mortality ratio

(m) Adult female literacy

(n) HIV infection rates among persons aged 15–24 years by sex

(o) Total fertility rate

(p) Adolescent fertility rate

(q) Ratio of enrolment rates of girls to boys in primary and secondary education

Sources

UNFPA

Economic diversification

Objective: Diversification of economic activities in the field of production and export.

Indicators

(a) Share of manufacturing sector to total GDP

(b) Share of manufactured exports to total exports

Sources

United Nations, UNCTAD

Objective: Trade access and opportunities

Indicators

(a) Tariff rate of major developed countries against the major African commodities

(b) Market share in developed countries

Sources

UNCTAD

Regional cooperation and integration

Objective: Regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration

Indicators

(a) Tariff rate among group countries

(b) Trade data among group countries

Sources

UNCTAD, ECA and OAU

Other priority areas

Resource mobilization

Objective: More dynamic flow of external financial resources

Indicators

(a) Annual data of total gross and net resource flows

(b) Annual data of gross/net official development assistance and foreign direct investment

Sources

OECD/Development Assistance Committee, IMF and UNCTAD

Objective: Internal resource mobilization

Indicators

(a) Domestic savings rate

(b) Banking sector regulation

Sources

(a) World Bank and IMF

Water

Objective: To provide sufficient amount of water to all the people in Africa

Indicators

(a) Percentage of population with access to water supply

(b) Proportion of population who use piped water for drinking

(c) Proportion of population who use public tap water for drinking

(d) Proportion of population who use borehole/pump water for drinking

(e) Proportion of population who use well protected/covered water for drinking

(f) Percentage of population in urban and rural areas with access to sanitation facilities

(g) Percentage of total population in urban areas connected to municipal water supply system (i.e., urban versus peri-urban)

(h) Percentage of total water in drainage basin allocated to drinking water, industry and irrigation purposes

(i) Percentage of drinking water supply derived from surface (lakes, rivers etc.) versus groundwater sources

(j) Percentage of total available water resources that are tapped for human use

(k) Percentage of disease and death attributed to waterborne vectors or diseases

Sources

UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, WHO and FAO

Food security

Objective: To supply a life-sustainable amount of food to all the people in Africa

Indicators

(a) Yearly data of agricultural production with specification of commodity

(b) Food reserves in metric tons and per capita availability, and by commodity

(c) Yearly data of food consumption per capita with age and gender specification

(d) Advances in reversing desertification: hectares claimed per year

(e) Yearly data of aid flow and government spending to this field

Sources

FAO, UNICEF and UNDP

Poverty

Objective: Poverty eradication

Indicators

(a) Poverty headcount ratio (percentage below $1 a day)

(b) Poverty headcount ratio (percentage of population below national poverty line)

(c) Poverty gap ratio

Sources

World Bank

Debt

Objective: Substantial debt relief

Indicators

(a) Annual data of the total amount of the debt with specification of the type of debt: bilateral, multilateral and commercial

(b) Annual data of debt service (interest and amortization)

Sources

World Bank and IMF

Note

The indicators to be monitored will be for the whole African continent and the countries that are covered in the priority programmes of the Special Initiative. Data may be collected from 1994, two years before the launching of the Special Initiative, to the most recent year of availability of data.